THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Brazil's Vinicius Junior (7) celebrates a goal against Morocco on Saturday | AP

Brazil survive scare, Oz and Scotland win

Vinicius Jr. helped Brazil hold Morocco to a 1-1 draw while Australia stunned Turkiye 2-0 and Scotland, on their return to the event, beat Haiti 1-0 in the FIFA World Cup on Saturday. P11

TODAY'S MATCHES (IST)

Group H: Spain vs Cabo Verde (9:30 PM); Saudi Arabia vs Uruguay (3:30 AM*).
Group G: Belgium vs Egypt (12:30 AM*); Iran vs NZ (6:30 AM*) **(*Tuesday)**

Life of
Middle Class
Made Easier
Annual income up to ₹12.75 lakh tax-free
Affordable air travel for 1.6+ crore passengers under the UDAN Scheme
Metro connectivity expanded from 5 cities to 26 cities
12 Saal
Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-Kalyan ke
Government of Bharat
CBC 44101/13/0003/2627

Let's not blow it, Trump tells Israel and Iran

Raps Israel for striking Beirut and hindering peace efforts, claims a deal is 'very close'

AGENCIES @Dubai

US President Donald Trump on Sunday urged no further attacks by anyone after Israel's military said it launched strikes on Hezbollah targets in Beirut, potentially complicating efforts to finalize a deal to end the US-Iran war. Smoke rose over the Dahiyeh in Lebanese capital Beirut, where at least three people were killed and 16 others wounded.

Iran threatened a military response. Trump reacted on social media: "We are very close to a deal that will bring peace to the region, including to Lebanon" and "Let's not blow it!"

The deal in its current form is a deep disappointment to Israel's government, which has been sidelined in negotiations led by Pakistan and others. The last time Israel struck the Beirut suburbs a week ago, it set off the most serious escalation of fighting between Iran and Israel since the tenuous ceasefire took hold April 7.

Trump, who had said the deal could be signed Sunday, has pressed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to stop hitting Lebanon hard while a deal is near, but the prime minister has defied him.

We are very close to a Deal that will bring peace to the region, including to Lebanon, and all sides should stand down... Let's not blow it!

Donald Trump, US President

Iran warns of attacks

Brig General Mohammad Jafar Asadi, deputy commander of Iran's military command warned that Israel's strike would not go "unanswered"

WAR WATCH

Netanyahu's office said the strikes were in response to Hezbollah attacks on northern Israel. Israel's military said Hezbollah launched three projectiles. There was no comment from the Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

Iran's parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, a lead negotiator for Tehran, warned the US on X after Israel's strikes that "if you lack the will and ability to fulfill your commitments, speaking of continuing the path is not possible." P9

India and France deepen strategic relations with focus on AI, innovation

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday elevated the momentum in India-France ties with a strong push for innovation-led growth, positioning India and France as key partners in emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, defence manufacturing, space exploration, and resilient supply chains.

Earlier in the day, addressing innovators, investors and entrepreneurs at Bharat Innovates, Modi projected India as a rising innovation powerhouse and called for technology that serves humanity rather than markets alone.

"An India that is emerging not merely as a consumer of solutions, but as a contributor of solutions. Here, some are working to transform rural life through AI, while others are using satellite technology to support farmers. Some young innovators are shaping the future through smart cities, advanced manufacturing, and new materials. At the same time, several start-ups are developing new technologies in the fields of defence and security," Modi said.

He urged startups to build technologies that are "trusted, inclusive and human-centric", arguing that companies should be judged not only by their valuation but by their contribution to society.

The Bharat Innovates conclave, launched during Modi's France visit, brought together startups, venture capital funds, researchers and innovators from India, France and other countries. Modi interacted with entrepreneurs working in frontier sectors, including quantum computing, semiconductors, biotechnology, defence, space, healthcare, med-tech and clean energy. The innovation push was reinforced during Modi's bilateral meeting with Macron at Villa Kerylos in Nice.

Following extensive discussions covering defence, technology, space, trade, mobility and global affairs, the two sides announced 13 agreements and initiatives aimed at strengthening long-term cooperation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron during 'Bharat Innovates' event in France on Sunday | PTI

High-level mechanism to double trade volume

India and France also announced creation of a high-level mechanism for realising the goal of doubling bilateral trade in the next five years. The current bilateral trade volume is $16 billion. The two sides also decided to expand the use of UPI at Paris and Nice airports

Innovation Roadmap 2030 launched

The India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030 seeks to deepen cooperation in critical and emerging technologies as well as startup and incubator ecosystems besides promoting academic mobility and industry-academia linkages, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said

3 B'luru cops caught taking bribe in Raj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a major embarrassment to the Bengaluru City Police, a woman police sub-inspector and two constables attached to the HAL police station, who had gone to Jaipur to arrest an accused in connection with a dowry harassment case, were trapped by the Rajasthan Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Sunday for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 at a hotel in the Rajasthan capital.

The accused police personnel have been identified as Sub-Inspector Anitha K and Head Constables Ullvappa Tegur and Yateesh, all attached to the HAL Police Station.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Whitefield Division) Saidulu Adavath told *TNIE* that according to preliminary information, a constable was caught red-handed by ACB officials in Jaipur, Rajasthan, while accepting a bribe. They are being questioned by the officials, he said. P3

Rebel TMC MPs 'merge' with regional party NCPI, seek separate bloc in LS

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

CLAIMING the support of 20 of the 28 Lok Sabha MPs of the Trinamool Congress, the party's rebel lawmakers on Sunday evening met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking recognition as a separate bloc, and said they had merged with a regional outfit, the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI).

Earlier, TMC parliamentary party leader Abhishek Banerjee wrote to the Speaker, urging that no recognition, status, or facilities be granted to any group claiming to be a separate faction of the party. The letter was submitted to the Speaker by MPs Kirti Azad and Sagarika Ghose on Sunday evening.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with the Speaker, rebel MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the faction has merged with NCPI. "It is a regional party. We have merged with it." When asked if they claim to be the real TMC, he said it would be decided in court.

TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar said, "We 20 MPs, who were elected from the AITC, have met the Speaker and given him a letter urging him to allow us to sit as a separate bloc. And these 20 MPs, who constitute more than two-thirds of the TMC's strength, have merged with the NCPI. We will support the NDA under the leadership of PM Modi," she said.

Before meeting Birla, the dissident camp, including Saayoni Ghosh, Mala Roy, Satabdi Roy, and Arup Chakraborty huddled together at the residence of Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, with Kakoli Ghosh claiming two more MPs would be coming to their side.

In his letter to Speaker Birla, Abhishek Banerjee contended that any merger claim would require both a merger of the political party and the support of two-thirds of legislators, and that satisfying only one of these conditions would not be sufficient under the law.

Constitutional expert and former Lok Sabha secretary general P D T Achary told this paper that a merger can only take place between two parties —the original political party and another entity. "So long as the MPs continue to be members of TMC, only the political party can merge with another party. That's the law, the MPs cannot escape the law whether they merge with any other party," Achary said.

In his letter, Banerjee cited a 2023 Supreme Court ruling saying no set of members can carve out a parallel group and claim independent recognition. P7

Rebel TMC MPs meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Sunday | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Under para 4 of 10th Schedule of the Constitution, MPs or ML As have no freedom to merge with any party. Only the original political party can merge with another party. After such merger, MPs/ MLAs can only 'agree' with the merger — Former Lok Sabha secretary-general P D T Achary

RAIN FORECAST

Parts of K'taka under yellow alert for 2 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

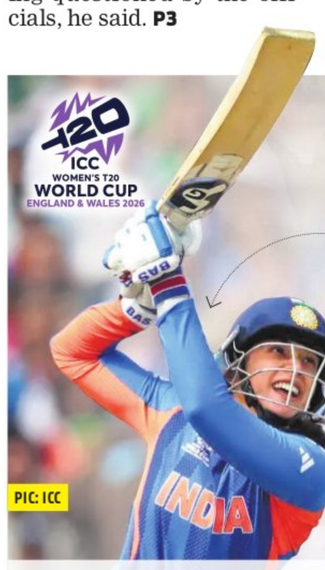
BENGALURU has been placed under a yellow alert for the next three days, with weather officials forecasting light to heavy rainfall across the city. Cloudy skies and intermittent showers are expected to persist, accompanied with thunderstorms. Other parts of Karnataka too have a yellow alert issued for the next two days, as monsoon is active in the region.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), light to heavy rain accompanied by thundershowers and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph is likely in Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural, until Wednesday. Maximum and minimum temperatures in the city are likely to remain around 29 degrees Celsius and 21 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In coastal Karnataka, heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts on Monday, and again on Wednesday and Thursday. Uttara Kannada is expected to receive light to moderate rainfall at most places during the period.

The IMD has also issued a heavy rainfall warning for south-interior Karnataka from Monday to Thursday. Kodagu, Hassan and Mysuru districts are likely to witness heavy rainfall on Monday. Heavy showers are also forecast over Kodagu and Chitradurga till Wednesday. The weather office said conditions remain favourable for the further advance of the southwest monsoon into the remaining parts of Karnataka and adjoining regions over the next four to five days.

No major change in temperatures is expected across the state, though maximum temperatures are likely to dip gradually during the next five days. Residents in rain-prone areas have been advised to remain cautious due to the possibility of waterlogging, reduced visibility and traffic disruptions during periods of intense rainfall.



India Pak a punch in WC opener

Opener Smriti Mandhana fifty followed by Deepti Sharma's fifer helped Women in Blue cruise past Pakistan in their opening game of the T20 WC. A look...

Mandhana to the fore

When Pakistan took two early wickets, it seemed like India were in trouble. But the ever-so-consistent Mandhana, along with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (36), rose to the occasion. Her 44-ball 68 took the team from 18/2 to 109/3 in 63 balls. Richa Ghosh's (17-ball 34) explosive cameo in the death overs gave the final push help India finish with 170/6

Spinners take charge

One of intriguing things about this WC is the number of used surfaces on offer and how much spinners could control proceedings. India are aware of it as well, fielding three tweakers on Sunday. And it came in handy with Deepti Sharma (5/10), NR Sree Charani (3/21) and Shafali Verma (1/22) taking all nine wickets (one was a run out) as India beat Pakistan by 64 runs. They play Netherlands next on Wednesday | P11

No change in handshake policy While Kaur did not answer the question when asked if she would shake hands with Pakistan counterpart Fatima Sana on the eve of the match, there was no handshake between the two teams on Sunday. Since the men's Asia Cup last year, the two teams have not shook hands on the field

Today's matches (Southampton): NZ vs SL, 7PM; England vs Ireland, 11PM; Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar

MALIGNING CENTRE

Rahul 'undermining' achievements of India, its people, says Nirmala

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman interacts with a roadside vendor, explaining the minimum loan schemes, in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

AGENCIES @Bengaluru

UNION Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of "undermining" the achievements of India and its people while targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central government.

She said Rahul is "ignoring" India's achievements even in the face of major crises like Covid and the conflict in West Asia. She clarified that there is no crisis in the country as is being portrayed by Rahul.

"Every time the Congress' Leader of Opposition speaks in the Lok Sabha, it is only to decry everything and undermine the achievements of the people of India, thinking that he is undermining Prime Minister Modi or the Central government," she said.

She was addressing party functionaries during the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Samavesha in the city to celebrate 12 years of BJP rule in the country under Modi's leadership.

She said Rahul constantly says everything is going to crumble in the next few weeks and there is a big disaster waiting to happen, but there is no disaster waiting. "On the contrary, quarter after quarter, year after year India is the fastest growing economy," she underlined.

It is not the Central government that is claiming India is the fastest-growing economy, but GDP numbers indicate this. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), too, said India is growing, she added.

She alleged that repeated criticism by Rahul could create a false perception among citizens about the country's economic condition. "Yet, he and his party continue to undermine India. They try to make people believe that India is in trouble. Even amid crises in West Asia and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, India continues to move forward," she said. Explaining the impact of geopolitical tensions on fuel supplies and global trade, Sitharaman said the challenges extended beyond fluctuations in crude oil and LPG prices. "These challenges affect not only crude oil and LPG prices, but also global shipping," she said. P4

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 15.06.2026 • Year: Parabhava • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Adhika Jyeshta • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Amavasya 9.02 am
• Nakshatra: Mrigashira 8.58 pm • Moon in Mithuna Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 31°C
FORECAST
Cloudy

Sunrise 05.53 am
Sunset 06.46 pm
Moonrise 05.44 am
Moonset 07.15 pm

OVERBURDENED

At least one per ward, demand GBA's marshals

Claim they have multiple responsibilities

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

With a jump in the number of wards from the earlier 198 to 369, marshals working under Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), burdened by overseeing multiple works, demand that each ward should have one dedicated marshal. They said that in a day they have to juggle between multiple tasks -- solid waste management, illegal banner removal, revenue collection, enforcement drives etc, and that if each of the 369 wards has one marshal, they can carry out their duties effectively.

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Marshal Colonel (retired) Rajbhir Singh said, "Retired Army personnel were hired by the then Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in 2019, mostly to curb violations in solid waste management, which include illegal dumping of waste, handing over mixed waste, burning of garbage, taking pourakarmikas' morning attendance along with garbage collection tippers, and others. Dedicating one marshal for each of the 198 wards, a total of 240 marshals were inducted to look after processing plants and busy markets too."

While the marshals were recruited mainly to oversee solid waste management, the burden of work kept growing, Singh said. "We were gradually deputed to enforce single-use plastic ban, remove illegal flex banners, safeguard lakes, footpath encroachment clearance drives and are taken along for revenue collection drives. Multiple enforcement drives by different departments in the GBA are under way, and marshals are part of them. Marshals are also on duty during emergencies like flooding, treefall and others," the chief marshal explained.

Adding to the high workload was the formation of the GBA and five corporations, which doubled the number of wards in Bengaluru from 198 to 369. He said while wards double, the strength of marshals has remained the same.

Sharing their experience, marshals said their job is challenging and tiring, and if more people are inducted, their burden would be reduced. Further, they said that every day, marshals face many unpleasant situations and resistance from citizens while discharging their duties, and due to this, the attrition rate is also high, with new recruits leaving the job within a year.

"For better enforcement of solid waste management, we have urged the government to induct more marshals, so that each ward has one dedicated marshal," Singh said.

RAIN RIDE

A man gets drenched despite his pillion holding an umbrella as they ride a bike on Sheshadri Road in Bengaluru on Sunday | KEVIN NASHON

EXPRESS READ

St John's Hospital observes Blood Donor Day

BENGALURU: More than 60 units of blood were collected at a voluntary blood donation camp organised at St John's Medical College and Hospital, Brigade Meadows on Kanakapura Road on Saturday on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day. The camp was inaugurated by Suresh S, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), CRPF, Dog Breeding and Training School, Taralu. Around 20 CRPF jawans participated in the drive along with other voluntary donors. Addressing the gathering, Suresh highlighted the importance of blood donation in saving lives and called for greater awareness and participation in such initiatives. Father Dr Wilson CD, the associate director of the hospital, welcomed the participants and spoke on this year's theme – "One drop of humanity: Give blood, Save life". A team from the Blood Bank and Laboratory services at the hospital conducted the donor counselling and blood collection. The organisers said the initiative was aimed at promoting voluntary blood donation and reinforcing the spirit of service and solidarity. ENS

KCET medical toppers miffed at NEET delay

ANUBHAB ROY @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on Sunday released verification slips for Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) candidates who had registered for the counselling process. However, medical aspirants who had appeared for the Undergraduate Common Entrance Test (UGCET) were left frustrated as counselling remained stalled following the cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), earlier this year.

While the counselling process moved ahead for students from most streams, those seeking medical admissions continued to face uncertainty over the delayed NEET process.

When the UGCET results were announced on June 6, KEA Chairman Dr Sharan Prakash Patil had acknowledged the delay in counselling for medical students.

"As you all know, the NEET examination will be re-conducted. Because of the delay, we had to postpone CET counselling for Bachelor of Pharmacy (B Pharm) and Diploma in Pharmacy (D Pharm) applicants by a little while. Medical students will not face any trouble," he had said.

Top rankholders divided

THE top 10 UGCET rankholders from the medical stream expressed mixed reactions to the delay. While some voiced frustration and apprehension, others chose to remain optimistic and focus on their plans.

Suchita M, who secured joint second rank in the medical stream with 99.44%, did not hide her disappointment. "My preparation for the past two years was entirely NEET-oriented, and I appeared for UGCET incidentally. There's nothing we can do in a system like this," she said.

Amulya S, who secured joint first rank with 100%, adopted a more pragmatic approach. "I don't feel too much disappointment regarding this; we NEET applicants are in this together. We all share a sense of unity because our counselling has been delayed and the issue has affected every one of us. My plan is to get into a good medical college," she said.

Nayana Gopi, who also secured first rank with 100%, said, "There was some frustration at first. I felt everyone else was moving ahead with their lives and goals while I was stuck. Right now, I am focusing on what is within my control. I revise concepts daily, make a study plan every day."

Residents at risk as water board digs up road

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

RESIDENTS using Street No 6 at Kamaraj Road Cross are forced to navigate a damaged stretch which was not properly restored after the replacement of a drainage pipeline. The road, which serves as a connecting lane between Fruit Street and Kamaraj Road, was dug up by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

Ganesh Kumar, a resident of the area, said the road was dug up multiple times for pipeline-related works. He said the latest work was carried out on an emergency basis and involved only the replacement of the drainage pipe.

With continuous rainfall, the dug up portion has gradually subsided, creating a depression in the middle of the lane. Residents say the narrow road, coupled with vehicles parked on both sides, forces pedestrians and two-wheeler riders to pass through the damaged section, increasing the risk of accidents.

Kumar said several bikers lost balance while navigating the road. He also recalled an incident in which an elderly woman slipped while walking through the lane, hit a nearby wall and injured the back of her head.

Residents said they approached both BWSSB and BBMP on multiple occasions urging them to repair the stretch, but both agencies passed responsibility on each other. Civic activist Maria Hussain questioned the lack of coordination between agencies involved in public infrastructure works.

Residents have also raised concerns about the lack of streetlights at one end of the lane, saying the poorly lit stretch poses safety concerns after dark.

Responding to the issue, a GBA official said the road would be inspected jointly with BWSSB officials and that necessary repair works would be taken up soon.

Give account of trees planted: GBA to residents

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

FOREST department and Greater Bengaluru Authority officials are asking citizens and multiple organisations for an account and report on saplings planted during the recently held World Environment Day.

The forest wing of the GBA is also preparing a proposal to be submitted before the Karnataka High Court, seeking direction to those who seek afforestation and felling permission, to include the location for planting of saplings while submitting their proposal. They will also have to take care of the saplings for 3-5 years, and give regular updates on the condition of the saplings.

The officials admit that this is being done because there is no space left in Bengaluru to undertake any afforestation. Also, the saplings planted are unable to withstand strong winds and heavy monsoon downpour, making the entire exercise futile.

Sudarshan GK, Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA, said there is no spare place in the city due to increased concretisation. There is also a limit for lakebed plantation, so they will approach court for directions. Henceforth, until the area for afforestation is shown, permission will not be given for felling.

He added that they were also searching for space in government and private buildings, as the state government has set a target of planting 80,000 saplings this financial year. The GBA forest wing is also asking for government land to increase plantations in BDA and BMRDA limits and to protect existing lung spaces.

"There is no space left in Bengaluru. All encroached lands which were recovered have been greened and fenced. People ask us for land, but we don't have any. Now they have to find land and inform us," said Bengaluru Urban Deputy Conservator of Forests N Ravindra Kumar.

EXPRESS READ

Two Bengaluru-based entrepreneurs receive fellowships

Bengaluru: The AssisTech Foundation (ATF), which works for the empowerment of the disabled, awarded 10 entrepreneurs with disabilities from across India with fellowships on Thursday, and two of them are from Bengaluru. This was part of the inaugural imaginATe fellowship, which will mentor them and provide the network needed to build their businesses. They will also receive monthly stipends. The two chosen from Bengaluru are Dr Balaji and Parmeet Singh. The fellowship also includes a bootcamp – a three-day residential programme for intensive learning and community building. ENS

Kannada translation of TJS George's B'luru memoir released

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Kannada translation of Askew: A Short Biography of Bangalore, originally authored by noted journalist and writer TJS George, was released in Bengaluru on Sunday, with speakers using the occasion to call for better urban planning, coordinated governance and sustainable development in the city.

Titled Orey Korey – Dodda Bengalurina Sanna Aathmakathe and translated by Prof KE Radhakrishna, the book was unveiled at an event that reflected on Bengaluru's past while addressing the challenges shaping its future.

Speaking after the release, Prof Radhakrishna said the book preserves Bengaluru's living memories by documenting the people, institutions and cultural spaces that shaped the city. While several books have chronicled Bengaluru's physical growth, George's work goes beyond roads and buildings to capture the stories of the individuals who gave the city its character and soul, he said.

According to him, the book vividly portrays Bengaluru's diverse cultural landscape — from iconic Udupi eateries and traditional neighbourhoods to literary circles, theatre groups, artists, entrepreneurs and public intellectuals. He said George's narrative brings localities such as Malleshwaram and Jayanagar to life while preserving memories of a Bengaluru that is gradually disappearing amid rapid urbanisation.

Orey Korey Dodda Bengalurina Sanna Aathmakathe, the Kannada translation of Askew: A Short Biography of Bangalore, authored by noted journalist and writer late TJS George, being released in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Architect and urban policy expert Naresh Narasimhan argued that Bengaluru should prioritise public transport, walkability and coordinated governance over flyovers and road expansion. Calling the city "a victim of its own success", he said investments should focus on buses, suburban rail and Metro connectivity rather than projects that primarily benefit private vehicles.

Narasimhan highlighted the need for better coordination among civic agencies and urged authorities to prepare a long-term vision for Bengaluru ahead of its 500th anniversary in 2037. TJS George's granddaughter, Tia Anasuya, BJP MLA S Suresh Kumar and others were present at the event.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

15th June : First Day of School on the Moon
The new moon resets the lunar cycle, making the days that follow feel like the first days of astral school. We sharpen our pencils, look around for potential friends and quietly decide who we might become this semester of the soul. Today gives extra credit for raising your hand with both questions and answers.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You're comfortable making choices that might seem unusual to other people because being true to yourself matters more to you than fitting in. Other people's opinions change, and people drift in and out of your life, but you're the one who has to live with yourself every day.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
Talking with the people you love will feel especially enjoyable. You reply quickly because you care. Like a pro, you keep conversations light, comfortable and positive and avoid topics that could create tension.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Your timing is good even when it seems like it's not. Delays protect you while fortunate coincidences speed everything else along. Go forward in full belief that everything is occurring in perfect synchronicity, and you will stop chasing and start attracting.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
It seems efficient to hand off the mundane work to someone else while you follow your whim, but that would only slow down your productivity and block your creativity. The daily tasks move your imagination. Your genius is hands-on.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
So many items live in your brain, waiting to be born into writing. When you get them down on paper, they start to take on a life of their own. Through writing you will not only get clear, but you will also learn yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
You're especially persuasive right now. Today shows you reading people with great accuracy, working rooms and leading situations toward the outcome you want. You never push because you don't have to. Charm and emotional intelligence do the work for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
You hit a wall between you and where you want to go. But keep looking into it, pushing on it and believing there may be something more here. Seek the hidden door. Curiosity opens social, financial and creative passageways.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
You'll find yourself in a caregiving role. It is not possible to give care in one universal way because everyone's needs are different. Also, a person's needs can change by the day or the hour. Read the small signals and anticipate problems.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Is the insect a pest, or is the insect another magnificent earthling? You could go either way, or both ways at once. You appreciate all, but if your territory is invaded, your perception and reactions change.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
There is information you're willing to work for -- to make it your business to know, your quest to discover. Then there's the simple and inconvenient truth that's right in the middle of the path, needing only to be faced.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You'll tap those puzzle-solving skills today. You may try the same solution repeatedly, just to verify the results. But if it doesn't work after a few tries, you do it differently until you find what clicks.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
You're aware of what's going on, and you think you ought to react, though you may not be sure quite when or how. The takeaway isn't clear. Let feelings settle. You have time on this one.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

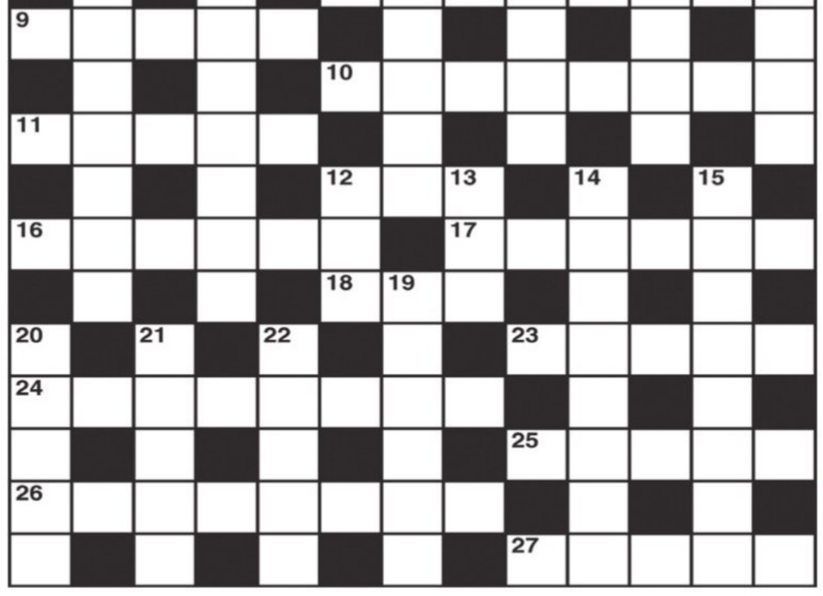
4				5		6		
	8					1		
2	1		8	4				
	9		1					
3			5	9	6			8
					8		2	
				1	9		4	5
		3					7	
		1		3				6

5	9	6	8	4	2	7	3	1
7	8	2	1	6	3	5	9	4
1	4	3	9	5	7	2	6	8
8	5	7	6	3	9	4	1	2
6	3	4	7	2	1	8	5	9
9	2	1	4	8	5	3	7	6
4	7	8	3	1	6	9	2	5
3	6	5	2	9	8	1	4	7
2	1	9	5	7	4	6	8	3

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Not the best way to beat an opponent (5)
8 It may be paternal - or not (8)
9 Tongue of land round a lake that's overflowed (5)
10 A nose did suffer from them (8)
11 Employing a piece of dubious ingenuity (5)
12 Interview for a bishop's palace (3)
16 Figure in the art world (6)
17 Acquired permit ran out inside (6)
18 He may get beaten if he appears again (3)
23 Number get a fever that's ill-defined (5)
24 Excel as a bootblack? (8)
25 I'd try tidying up if in this condition (5)
26 Act when some came in late (8)
27 Accident on court? (5)

DOWN
2 It comes in to fight on the other side (8)
3 The quality of the sea Italy's in perhaps (8)
4 Manage to hear a composer (6)
5 Food spilt by blabbermouths (5)
6 Remained so we hear sober (5)
7 An explosive expletive (5)
12 Determined group of people (3)
13 Wood used in model-making (3)
14 Fast mail used for one's resignation (8)
15 A form of question having inverted commas (2,6)
19 Cats in the pound (6)
20 They have their worth for a poet (5)
21 Checks rising symptoms of measles (5)
22 Plan to get a hundred deer (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Underscore, 6 Stab, 10 Cowed, 11 Puts about, 12 Artifice, 13 Hinge, 15 Lignite, 17 Spliced, 19 Titanic, 21 Mockery, 22 Roast, 24 All fours, 27 Charlotte, 28 Abeam, 29 Salt, 30 Crystal set.

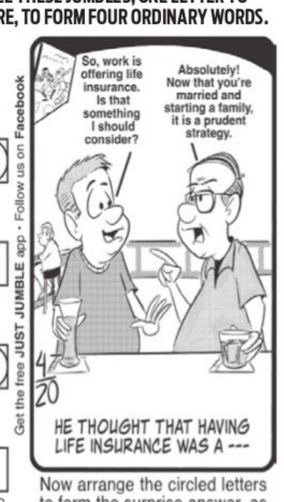
Down: 1 Unco, 2 Downright, 3 Radii, 4 Caprice, 5 Rotters, 7 Thorn, 8 Better days, 9 Catholic, 14 Plate racks, 16 Innately, 18 Cheerless, 20 Chatter, 21 Millers, 23 Avail, 25 Osaka, 26 Smut.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

URGOP
CLBKO
LOYCDU
HFTLGI


So, work is offering life insurance. Is that something I should consider?
Absolutely! Now that you're married and starting a family, it is a prudent strategy.
HE THOUGHT THAT HAVING LIFE INSURANCE WAS A ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: MOUND PAUSE DONKEY FIDDLE
Answer: When asked if buying the lodging establishment made them happy, they said — YES "INN-DEED"

Belagavi City Police intensified their crackdown on illegal gambling activities by conducting separate raids under the limits of Kakati and APMC police stations, resulting in the arrest of 26 individuals. The accused were allegedly found betting money on card games in a public place. Police arrested 20 persons and seized Rs 1,60,465 in cash

Man kills secret wife over her engagement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 33-year-old man who had secretly married a young woman a year ago allegedly strangled her to death after learning that her parents were looking for a groom for her. The accused then staged the scene to resemble a mutual suicide attempt by consuming poison.

The incident took place on G Hosahalli Road in the Byadarahalli police station on Saturday. The deceased was **Bhavani S**, a resident of Tulasi Nagar and native of Magadi in Bengaluru South district. She was working as a billing executive at a mobile phone shop in Tigalarapalya. The accused, Chandrashekar, is an autorickshaw driver.

According to the police, on Saturday morning, Bhavani's aunt called her mother and informed her that Bhavani had posted an Instagram story with a boy. To enquire about the photograph, her father, Srinivasa N, called her around 7.30 am. Despite making multiple calls, there was no response. He then contacted the house owner and requested him to check on her. The house owner informed Srinivasa that someone appeared to be inside the house. However, despite repeatedly knocking on the door, no one answered. He alerted the police, who rushed to the spot and found Bhavani lying dead, while Chandrashekar was found unconscious but still breathing. He was shifted to a nearby hospital, the police said.

The police added that there was a strong smell of a poisonous substance in the house. The same smell was emanating from both Bhavani and Chandrashekar. After receiving treatment, he was taken into police custody.

The probe revealed that Chandrashekhar and Bhavani had secretly married a year ago and had been living together without anyone's knowledge. Recently, Bhavani learned that Chandrashekhar was already married and had a six-year-old child. Hurt by this revelation, she informed her family about the situation. Her parents had even found a groom for her, and preparations were underway for her engagement, which was scheduled for the following week. After learning about this, Chandrashekhar came to her house on Saturday, where he had an argument with her. He allegedly told her, "I cannot live without you. We should either live together or die together."

Enraged by her refusal, Chandrashekhar uploaded a photograph of their marriage on Instagram. Bhavani's family members saw the photograph and contacted her over the phone. Realising that the matter had become known to everyone, Bhavani confronted Chandrashekhar, leading to another argument. During the altercation, Chandrashekhar allegedly strangled Bhavani to death.

Man slits GF's throat for speaking to another man

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 22-year-old woman from Sikkim was allegedly murdered by her boyfriend, who slit her throat, as he suspected her to be talking to another man, at Doddakannelli, under the Bellandur police limits, on Sunday.

The police arrested Purba Lepcha for killing Ati Hangma Subha (22), who worked as a receptionist at a salon. The accused hailed from Darjeeling in West Bengal and worked as a waiter at a hotel. The couple was in a relationship and lived together in Sikkim for about a year. They moved to Bengaluru about a month ago in search of work and were staying together at a rented house in Doddakannelli. The couple was involved in a lot of arguments recently over her conversations with another man.

Deceased Ati Hangma Subha with accused Purba Lepcha | EXPRESS

Around 5.30 am on Sunday, again an argument broke out. As it escalated, Lepcha allegedly took a knife and slit the woman's throat, killing her on the spot, the police said.

The house owner alerted the police about the murder after hearing Subha's screams, even as Lepcha fled the scene. The police circulated his photograph among patrol teams. They also rushed to the nearby Carmelaram Railway Station in Chikkabellandur, where Lepcha was found and taken into custody. A case of murder has been registered against the accused, and further investigation is on.

CJP targets Pradhan at first B'luru protest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) held its first protest in Bengaluru on Sunday as part of its nationwide campaign demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged NEET paper leak and the alleged irregularities in the education system.

Speaking at the protest, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke criticised the Union government, accusing it of inciting fear among communities and using that fear to suppress peaceful dissent. Braving heavy rain, around 250 people gathered at the venue to demand Pradhan's resignation over the alleged "mishandling" of the NEET examinations. Dipke was joined by actor Prakash Raj, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and several other activists. Referring to the deaths of students linked to the examination controversy, Dipke said youngsters who aspired to save the lives of others were forced to give up their own lives. "I don't think there can be anything more shameful than this for the country," he said.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke (left) with actor Prakash Raj and activist Sonam Wangchuk at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Sunday | KEVIN NASHON

Addressing the youth as "my young cockroaches", Prakash Raj urged them to continue raising their voices. "Uncles and aunties over the retirement age are looting and ruining the country, with no accountability or responsibility for their actions," he said.

Wangchuk said, "The power of the people lies in their voices. We must keep questioning the government, no matter who is in power. We are here to challenge the education system, but we must not forget that every system in our country, especially our political system, is rotten to the core."

₹2L bribe sought to dilute case

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SOURCES said the Rajasthan ACB received a complaint alleging that a man and his family members were facing a dowry harassment allegations and a case was registered at the HAL police station in Bengaluru.

THREE police personnel, including a woman sub-inspector, had gone to Jaipur to investigate the case, where they allegedly demanded Rs 2 lakh to dilute the case and clear the family members of the allegations. The police personnel allegedly instructed the accused to arrange the money and went to Hotel Gangaur in Jaipur on Sunday morning to collect it. Following the complaint, the ACB laid a trap at the hotel, and Head Constable Ullvappa Tegur was caught redhanded while accepting Rs 40,000. Further probe revealed the involvement of the two other cops, who were arrested.

EXPRESS READ

2 B'luru youths drown in Hemavathi backwaters

HASSAN: Two youths from Bengaluru drowned while another person is feared drowned in the Hemavathi reservoir near Shettihalli village in Hassan on Sunday. According to Gorur police station SI Dhananjaya, the deceased have been identified as Manikanta (22) and Charan (23). While the police have retrieved the bodies of Manikanta and Charan, efforts are underway to trace Milan (25). ENS

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BANGALORE KARNATAKA
BSNL Building 4th Floor, 'Telephone House Raj bhavan Road, Bangalore-560001

M A No.92/2025 IN OA NO.18/2021
Between:
Union Bank of India,
Asset Recovery Branch
No.12/1, Raja Building,
N.R Road, Bengaluru- 560001.
Represented by its Chief Manager
...Applicant
And :
Cistem Dynamic Solutions Defendants
1. Cistem Dynamic Solutions
Registered Office at # 172A, 1st Floor, 11th Main, 3rd Phase,
Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore-560058.
Represented by its Proprietor
2. Mr. Hitesh Pujari
Represented by its Proprietor
R/at # 301, 2nd Floor, Mahaveer Willow Apartments, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru-560060.
Phone No. 8105579999
Pan No. AMLPP7873R
...Defendant No 1 and 2.

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES,1993, TO THE DEFENDANTNo.1 and 2

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of the Debts Due to Banks and financial Institution Act, 1993 against you Recovery of Sum of **Rs. 72,93,023/-** (Rupees Seventy Two Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand and Twenty Three Only) together with current and future interest and other relief's the above Defendants is therefore, hereby directed to appear before the tribunal in defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **15.6.26 at 10.30 A.M.** as to why relief's prayed for should not be granted..Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal ofthis Hon'ble Tribunal on this **02 day of May 2026**

Sd/-Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

That this public notice is issued to the public in general on behalf of my clients **1) Raghavendra S/o. Ningappa,** Age: 43 Years, Occ: Agriculture & Business, R/o: H.No. 1-926, Budha Nagar, Near Railway Station, Kalaburagi. **2) Prakash S/o. Ramachandra Pujari,** Age: 62 Years, Occ: Agriculture & Business, R/o: H.No. 1-1498, Kalmeshwar Nilaya, Ganesh Nagar, Old Jewargi Road, Kalaburagi. That the owners and possessors of land bearing SY. No: 88, measuring 6 acres 20 guntas situated at village Neelagadaranahalli, Village Yeshwantapura Hobli, Bengaluru North namely **1) Yallamma W/o. Late Timmabhovi,** Age: 61 Years, Occ: Agriculture and Household, R/o: H.No. 149, 9th Cross, Bovi Palya, Near Caramel School, Bengaluru North, Basaveshwar Nagara, Bengaluru. **2) Ramesh S/o. Late Yallappa,** Age: 48 Years, Occ: Private work, R/o: H.No. 5, Ward No: 25, Manjunath Nagar, Ram Nagar Town, Dist: Ramnagar, have entered into an agreement for sale in respect of the above said property and have also executed a General Power of Attorney in respect of the above said property in favour of my clients.

Therefore by this public notice the public in general is hereby inform that not to deal and carryout any kind of transactions in respect of the above said property or portion of same therein, if any transactions were taken place same are not binding on my client and further in the event if any person is put to any kind of loss my client shall not be responsible for the same and the person who has undertaking any kind of deal/transaction in respect of above said property or portion of it shall be solely held responsible for its costs and consequences and further informed that if any person is having any objections regarding alienation of said property can approach the undersigned advocate with necessary documents. Hence this public notice.

Sd/- Rohit Jinde, Advocate,
H.No: 9-802A, Bandak Galli, Behind Margamma Temple, Shahabazar, Kalaburagi-585102.
Cell: 9620941515. KAR No: 1875/2015

SBI | STATE BANK OF INDIA
HOME LOAN CENTRE BIDADI (64664), Vijaya Complex, 1st Floor, Kenchenakuppe Gate, B.M. Road, Bidadi, Ramanagara District-562109. e-mail: sbi.64664@sbi.co.in

Rule 8(1) **POSSESSION NOTICE** (For Immovable Property)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA for an amount and interest thereon.
The borrowers attention is invited to provision of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

- **Branch: Bidadi (04235)**
- **Date of Demand Notice**: 31.03.2026 • **Date of Symbolic Possession:** 10.06.2026
- **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 1,20,03,277/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakhs Three Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Seven only) As on 09.06.2026 + further interest, costs, etc. thereon.
- **Name of the Borrower(s) & Address:** Naveen Kumar V S/o Ananthaiah V.H. No. 53, Shivani Sunshine, Choodasandra Circle, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560035, also at Villa No. 52, Castleton Greens Villas, Sy. No. 69, 73, 74 & 76, Hennagara Ammani Kere Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-562106.
- **Details of Property:** All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing Villa No. 52, measuring 1200 sq.ft and super builtup area of 2046 sq.ft., situated at Castleton Greens Villas, Khatha No. 479/74, 480/73, 480/76, Sy. No. 69, 73, 74 & 76, Hennagara Ammani Kere Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, standing in the name of Naveen Kumar V S/o Ananthaiah V.H. and is bounded by East: Villa No. 39, West: Road, North: Villa No. 53, South: Villa No. 51.

Date: 15.06.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bidadi **State Bank of India, (Under SARFAESI Act-2002)**

Delivery Mode : PAPER PUBLICATION

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. 20312 OF 2025
WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

GIRIJA AND OTHERS **...Petitioner(s)**
VERSUS
SUMITHRA AND OTHERS **...Respondent(s)**

To,

1. **ROOPA** D/o Late Basavaraju, No. 134, 4th Cross, Hanumanthanagar, District-Bengaluru - 560019, Karnataka. **PID: 143173/2026 FOR R[3] IN SLP(C) NO.20312/2025 (SEC IV-A)**
2. **B.H. SHYLAJA** W/o Late S. Nagaraj, 56/A, 1st Main Road, RK Layout, Stage II, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru - 560070, District - Bangalore, Karnataka. **PID: 143174/2026 FOR R[5] IN SLP(C) NO.20312/2025 (SEC IV-A)**
3. **N. VARUN** S/o Late S. Nagaraja, 56/A, 1st Main Road, RK Layout, Stage II, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru - 560070, District - Bangalore, Karnataka. **PID: 143175/2026 FOR R[6] IN SLP(C) NO.20312/2025 (SEC IV-A)**
4. **N. DIVYA** D/o Late S. Nagaraja, 56/A, 1st Main Road, RK Layout, Stage II, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru - 560070, District - Bangalore, Karnataka. **PID: 143176/2026 FOR R[7] IN SLP(C) NO.20312/2025 (SEC IV-A)**

WHEREAS the Petition for SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) to Appeal with application for **CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING THE SPARE COPIES, ADDITION / DELETION / MODIFICATION PARTIES** above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Ms. **MAULSHREE PATHAK,** Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner above named was listed for hearing before this Court on **1st August 2025,** when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"Issue notice. List on 10th September, 2025.

2. **In the meantime, there shall be stay of the impugned order 29th April, 2025 passed by the High Court of Karnataka in R.F.A. No. 190 of 2018."**

WHEREAS the matter above mentioned, was listed before the Hon'ble Court on **27th April 2026** when the Court was pleased to pass the following order: -

"At the outset, learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the plaintiffs, who are the Respondents No. 1, 2,4 and 8 to 9 have been served but the Respondents No.3 and 5 to 7 have not been served. It was submitted that they have not entered appearance before the Trial Court also and thus, she may be permitted to serve notice on them through substituted mode.

2. **Having considered the matter, the said prayer is allowed.**
3. **Let the same be done within three weeks and an affidavit in this regard shall be filed within one week thereafter.**
4. **List on 30.07.2026.**
5. **Interim order to continue till the next date of listing."**

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition will be posted for hearing before this Court on **30th July, 2026** at 10.30 O' Clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as may be convenient to the Court when you may appear before the court either in person or through Counsel and show cause to the Court as to why Special Leave and interim relief as prayed for be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

Take Further Notice that this Court has passed an interim order pending for disposal of SLP after notice as quoted above.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 within 30 days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated **: 25th May, 2026** **ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | **Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mrs. Manjula, W/o. Suresh P, 2) Mrs. Munivenkatamma, W/o. Anjinappa, 3) Mr. Suresh P, S/o. Anjinappa	Loan Account No. 46459630001058 46459410000621 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.3,73,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing No.173, Katha ID No.15020040160080016 6, situated at Manduru Village, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District, presently comes under the limits of Manduru Gram Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** Somanna, **West by:** Vacant Site, **North by:** Venkataswamy, **South by:** Muni Obalappa. Measuring East to West: 11.27 Mtrs and North to South: 4.26 Mtrs, in all measuring 48.01 Sq.mtrs.	Date of NPA: 01-06-2026 Demand Notice Date: 08.06.2026	Rs.6,68,653.40 (Rupees Six Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Three and Forty Paisa Only) due as on 04-06-2026 and interest thereon
2	1) Mr. Shiva Shankar R, S/o. Rajanna, 2) Mrs. Bhanu Priya, W/o. Shiva Shankar R	Loan Account No. 47519420000022 47519430001778 Loan Amount: Rs.25,89,692/- Rs.1,52,651/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.2, assessment No.43/1, Khatha No.1637/100/2, situated at Satanuru Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 60 ft and North to South 40 ft in all measuring 2400 sq.ft. and **Bounded on the: East by:** Property of Gurunatha, **West by:** Vacant Property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property of Jutyappa.	Date of NPA: 01-06-2026 Demand Notice Date: 09.06.2026	Rs.26,44,844.68 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Four and Sixty Eight Paisa Only) due as on 04-06-2026 and interest thereon
3	1) Mr. Arunkumar K, S/o. Mr. Kondaiah, 2) Mrs. Sushilamma, W/o. Mr. Kondaiah	Loan Account No. 47059630001611 Loan Amount: Rs.10,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property No. 152900200800320372, G.P No.18/179, measuring East to West 12.4968 meters and North to South 10.66 meters situated at Kolliganahalli Gram Panchayath, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Own Property, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property belongs to Venkatabovi, **South by:** Property belongs to Dasegowda.	Date of NPA: 01-06-2026 Demand Notice Date: 09.06.2026	Rs.9,91,349.70 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Three Hundred Forty Nine and Seventy Paisa Only) due as on 04-06-2026
4	1) Mr. Shivashankar P, S/o. Pitchaiah, 2) Mrs. Vijaya K, W/o. Pitchaiah	Loan Account No. 45359420001708 Loan Amount: Rs.27,00,049/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.138/2, measuring 1 Acre 30 Guntas (17308.31 Sq.meters), situated at Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Khata Nos.4644/138/2 & 4645/138/2, which is converted from agriculture to non-agricultural residential purpose vide Conversion Order No.BDS/ALN/(A)SR/606/04-05, Dated 24.11.2005, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District. **Bounded on: East by:** Land in Sy.No.138/3, **West by:** Land belongs to Poojarappa, **North by:** Road in Private Property, **South by:** Remaining Portion of Sy.No.138/2. **Shedule B:** An undivided 0.5736% share in the land comprised in the Schedule A Property i.e., 418.66806 Sq.ft. **Schedule 'C' Property:** All that piece and parcel of the residential apartment bearing Unit bearing No.L-3-022 on the Second Floor, 2 BHK in the apartment known as "K.B.ECO CITY", Constructed in the Schedule A Property, duly approved by BMRDA Vide its sanction letter No.AYP/CC/47/2009-10, Dated 29.01.2011 with super built up area of 825 Sq.ft. now comes under the jurisdiction of CMC Hebbagodi vide Assessment Khata No.6880/138/2/S.F-002 Situated at Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, consisting of R.C.C. Roof, tile flooring, chap wood doors and Windows with all basic amenities and with one Covered Car parking Space bearing No.L-31022 at the stilt level. The flat is **Bounded on the: East by:** Flat No.L-2/028, **West by:** Corridor, **North by:** Corridor, **South by:** Open Space.	Date of NPA: 01-06-2026 Demand Notice Date: 08.06.2026	Rs.21,77,145.80 (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty Five and Eighty Paisa Only) due as on 04-06-2026 and interest thereon
5	1) Mr. Shivanankari, S/o. Shivaraja, 2) Mrs. Maramma, W/o. Late Ningayya	Loan Account No. 47050430000409 47059410000930 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.2,33,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel for the Property Khaneshumari No.41/41, measuring East to West 10.667 meters and North to South 12.191 meters situated at Bannimukodllu Village, Bannimukodllu Grama Panchayath, Kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Land belongs to Revamma, **West by:** Site belongs to Rathnamma, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Land belongs to Chandrappa.	Date of NPA: 01-06-2026 Demand Notice Date: 08.06.2026	Rs.6,65,724.01 (Rupees Six Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Four and One Paisa Only) due as on 04-06-2026 and interest thereon
6	1) Mr. Vasu V, S/o. Late Venkatachalachari, 2) Mrs. Sharada V, W/o. Vasu V	Loan Account No. 31689630000232 Loan Amount: Rs.2,20,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property situated at Bangalore Urban District, Anekal Taluk, Kasaba Hobli Muthagatti Village, Survey No.73, House No.224/19, E-katha No.150200102401120062. Measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 20 feet totally measuring 600 Sq.ft. in this South to North on Eatern side 4 feet way and **Bounded as follows: East by:** 4 feet Road in same number and Rathnamma, W/o. Muniswamy House, **West by:** Sarasamma, W/o. Madappa House, **North by:** Same Number property Nagarahachari Hissa house and Vacant Land, **South by:** Govt. Road.	Date of NPA: 01-06-2026 Demand Notice Date: 08.06.2026	Rs.1,43,781.25 (Rupees One Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty One and Twenty Five Paisa Only) due as on 04-06-2026 and interest thereon
7	1) Y. B. Basavaraju, S/o. Basavegowda, 2) Mrs. Sujatha, W/o. Y B Basavaraju, 3) Mr. Basavegowda, S/o. Mr. Basavegowda	Loan Account No. 45359630001665 45359410001082 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.1,50,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel for Property No.78, Assessment No.95 Sl.No.99, Khatha No.99/95/78, measuring East to West 4.2677 meter (14 feet) and North to South 22.8630 meter (75) feet, situated at Yakkuli Village, Herandhappanahalli Gram Panchayath, Kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Kadegowda, **West by:** Property belongs to Raju, **North by:** Remaining own Property, **South by:** Government Road.	Date of NPA: 01-06-2026 Demand Notice Date: 10.06.2026	Rs.4,66,455.57 (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Five and Fifty Seven Paisa Only) due as on 04-06-2026
8	1) Mr. Muniraju, 2) Mrs. Nethravathi R N, 3) Mr. Muniyappa	Loan Account No. 47049630001190 Loan Amount: Rs.9,50,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel for Khanasumari No.83/69/ 44/1 measuring East to West 25 feet (7.62 Meter) and North to South 60 feet (18.29 Meter) and situated at Kodihalli Grama Panchayath, Kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: On the East:** Property belongs to Mr. Chamaraj, **On the West:** House belongs to Mr. Kuppegowda, **On the North:** House belongs to Radha, **On the South:** Road.	Date of NPA: 01-06-2026 Demand Notice Date: 08.06.2026	Rs.10,15,070.04 (Rupees Ten Lakh Fifteen Thousand Seventy and Four Paisa Only) due as on 04-06-2026
9	1) Mr. Ramachandra R, S/o. Rangappa, 2) Mrs. Chandramma, W/o. Rangappa	Loan Account No. 47050430000731 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel for the Property E-Khatha No.152900203601820321, Khaneshumari No.61/52/30, measuring East to West 5.79 meters and North to South 8.83 meters, situated at Hunasanahalli Village, Hunasanahalli Grama Panchayath, Kodihalli Hobali, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** House belongs to Gowramma @ Tandavamurthy, **West by:** House belongs to Kantharaju @ Ramanjappa, **North by:** Road, **South by:** House belongs to Nagaraju.	Date of NPA: 01-06-2026 Demand Notice Date: 09.06.2026	Rs.4,23,137.47 (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred Thirty Seven and Forty Seven Paisa Only) due as on 04-06-2026
10	1) Mr. Kemparaju, S/o. Choodegouda, 2) Mrs. Mahadevamma, W/o. Kemparaju	Loan Account No. 47049630000948 47049630000514 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel for property bearing Khaneshumari No.392/85, Property E Khatha No.152900203500420048, measuring East to West 17.9832, metersand North to South 11.5824 meters, situated at T Golahaili Viilage, Kodihalli Hobli, Hukunda Gramapanchayath, Kanakapura Taluk and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, West by: Site belongs to Kemparaju, **North by:** Site belongs to Channaraju, **South by:** Site belongs to Kemparaju.	Date of NPA: 01-06-2026 Demand Notice Date: 10.06.2026	Rs.6,76,624.15 (Rupees Six Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Four and Fifteen Paisa Only) due as on 08-06-2026

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 13.06.2026, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

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PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Powering Punjab Enriching Lives
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813, GSTIN: 03AAFCP5120Q1ZC
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ADVISOR, PSPCL, THE MALL, PATIALA
E-mail: finance-advisor@pspcl.in, Tel. No. 9646118057, 9646103335

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

RFP No. 01 **Date :15-06-2026**

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) invites online bids, till 11.00 hrs. on 10-07-2026, for selection of Transaction Advisor cum Merchant Banker/Arranger for mobilization of Rs. 10,000 crore through proposed issuance of NCDs/bonds from all SEBI Registered 'Category-I' Merchant Bankers, whose registration is valid for at least last five financial years i.e., since 1st April 2021. More details on the Services are provided in the RFP document.

Availability of RFP documents	Can be downloaded from website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 16th June, 2026 (zero date) onwards
Last date for submission of bids	11.00 hrs. on 10-07-2026
Opening of Technical bid	12.00 hrs. on 10-07-2026
Bid validity period	120 days from the date of opening
Pre-Bid Conference	Bidders interested to participate in the pre-bid meeting are required to get themselves registered by sending an email to **Financial Advisor, PSPCL** at finance-advisor@pspcl.in with name, designation and mobile numbers of persons interested to participate latest by 23rd June, 2026 Date and time of Pre-Bid Conference shall be intimated by email.

Note: Corrigendum(s) & addendum, if any, shall be published on **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in only.**

828/C-652/26/14/06/2026 **Sd/-**
1079/12/2026-27/12332 **Financial Advisor, PSPCL, Patiala**

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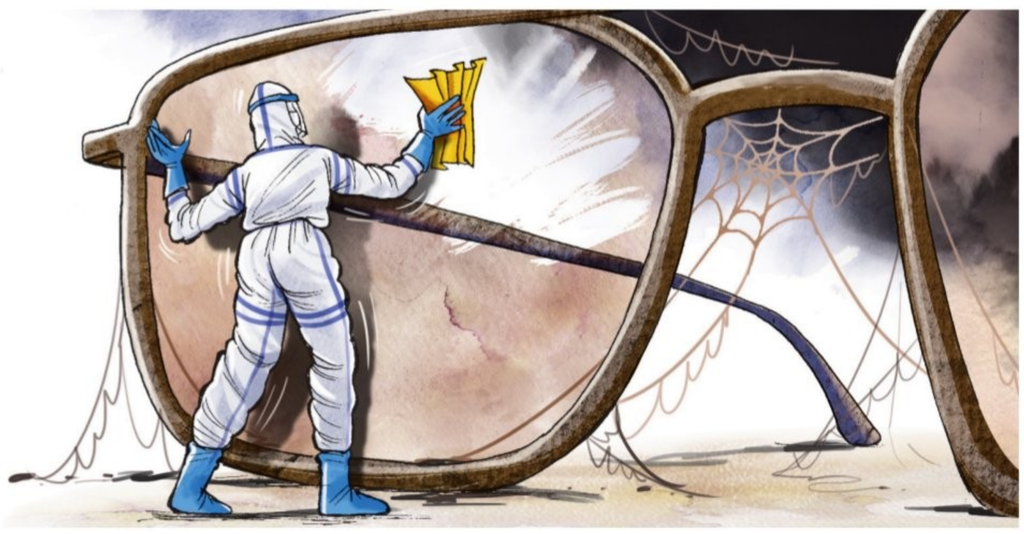
Responding to queries on former Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai leaving the party, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said theirs is a cadre-based party. Balraj Madhok, one of the founders of Jana Sangh, had left the party after some time. Kalyan Singh too left the party and later returned. Uma Bharti and BS Yediyurappa too had left the party at some point. However, the party continued to grow



HEALTHCARE NEEDS NEW PRESCRIPTION

Rebuilding public confidence in the state's tottering health system is the immediate challenge for new Health Minister UT Khader. Addressing gaps in primary healthcare, overburdened facilities, shortage of workers and medicines, lack of trust in the state's health system and rising maternal mortality rate would require administrative acumen as well as commitment to social welfare

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

AS Karnataka's new Health and Family Welfare Minister UT Khader takes charge of the department, he is welcomed by a plethora of issues plaguing the health sector: persistent shortage of workers, medicine, gaps in primary healthcare services, growing dependence on private healthcare and rising maternal mortality rate.

At the heart of the concerns is the condition of the state's primary healthcare system. Public health activists argue that government facilities are increasingly unable to provide patients with all the services they require. Medicines are often unavailable, diagnostic tests are referred outside and overburdened facilities struggle to meet demand.

Dr Swathi SB, member, Saarvajanika Arogya Andolana - Karnataka (SAAK), said studies conducted by public health groups have found that patients frequently leave government facilities with prescriptions for medicines and tests that must be done privately. "When people have to spend money outside even after visiting a government hospital, they begin to lose trust in the public system. Many eventually turn to private healthcare because they feel they are paying anyway," she said. One of the most pressing concerns, according to public health experts and workers, is the weakening of healthcare services at the taluk level.

FIRST REFERRAL UNITS THE WEAKEST LINK

Akhila Vasan of Karnataka Janaarogya Chaluvali says that taluk hospitals, which are expected to function as First Referral Units (FRUs) for emergency and specialist care, remain one of the weakest links in the state's healthcare chain. "These facilities are supposed to handle critical emergencies and specialist services. But many continue to face shortage of specialists and essential services," she said.

The consequences are visible across Karnataka. Many patients bypass local health centres and taluk hospitals, travelling directly to district hospitals or major tertiary-care institutions in Bengaluru in search of better care. As a result, government institutions such as Victoria Hospital and Vani Vilas Hospital are seeing a sharp rise in patient footfall, placing immense pressure on already stretched facilities. This overload often leads to longer waiting times for patients and increased strain on healthcare workers, though a significant share of these cases could have been effectively treated at primary or secondary levels of the healthcare system.

Experts argue that these shortcomings are compounded by a severe shortage of personnel. Health department data for 2024-25 shows that 1,194 Community Health Officer (CHO) posts of 6,780 sanctioned posts remain vacant, while 2,949 Primary Health Care Officer (PHCO) posts are vacant, affecting service delivery across the state's primary healthcare network.

Dr Akshay Dinesh, co-founder of Action for Equity, said Karnataka's healthcare challenges are rooted in long-standing systemic gaps rather than isolated administrative issues. He pointed to shortage of CHOs, ASHAs, nurses and other frontline staff across primary health centres and sub-centres, citing RTI responses and Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports as evidence of uneven vacancy levels across districts.

"There is a chronic problem of facilities not having adequate staff, and people no longer rely on these centres for care," he said, adding that this has pushed patients towards private providers over time. Dinesh said that repeated policy announcements on recruitment and reforms often remain unimplemented on the ground, and argued that without consistent staffing, transparent data systems and accountability in primary care delivery, improvements in Karnataka's public healthcare system will remain limited.

Health experts pointed out that vacancies in Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres often result in delayed treatment, reduced outreach activities and increased workload for existing staff. In rural areas, where public facilities serve as the first point of contact for healthcare, these gaps can have significant consequences.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Concerns about the effectiveness of Karnataka's healthcare system are also reflected in maternal health indicators. According to the Sample Registration System (SRS) Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India, 2022-24, Karnataka recorded a Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 73 deaths per 1,00,000 live births, the highest among southern states. The figure is considerably higher than Telangana (48), Andhra Pradesh (39), Tamil Nadu (25) and Kerala (24).

Experts say these figures point to deeper systemic challenges that extend beyond maternity care alone. While institutional deliveries and maternal health programmes have expanded over the years, issues such as anaemia among women, inadequate nutrition, delayed detection of high-risk pregnancies, shortages of healthcare personnel and gaps in primary healthcare services continue to affect outcomes.

Akhila Vasan said that nearly half of pregnant women in Karnataka are anaemic, making it one of the most significant underlying factors contributing to pregnancy-related complications and maternal deaths.

She argued that maternal mortality cannot be viewed in isolation from broader public health concerns, including malnutrition, regional disparities and weaknesses in primary healthcare services. Experts stressed that timely antenatal screening, nutritional interventions and regular monitoring are essential to reduce these risks.

According to public health specialists, many maternal deaths are linked to delays in identifying complications and accessing appropriate treatment, underscoring the need to strengthen primary healthcare infrastructure and ensure adequate staffing at government facilities.

Frontline workers, particularly ASHAs, play a critical role in addressing these gaps by tracking pregnancies, promoting institutional deliveries, ensuring immunisation and connecting women with healthcare services. However, concerns remain about their workload and the support available to them.

BIG PICTURE

BETTER WAGES

Rama TC, vice-president of the Karnataka Rajya Samyukta ASHA Karyakarteyara Sangha (AIUTUC), said ASHA workers continue to shoulder a wide range of responsibilities, including maternal healthcare, immunisation drives, disease surveillance and community outreach, despite receiving inadequate compensation.

She said ASHA workers are frequently assigned additional duties without corresponding increases in honorariums or support. Strengthening the public healthcare system, she argued, must include better wages, timely payments and improved working conditions for frontline workers, who form the backbone of healthcare delivery at the village level.

Alongside concerns about public healthcare delivery, activists and researchers have raised alarm over the increasing role of private healthcare providers in the state. Prasanna Saligram, a public health researcher, said Karnataka's healthcare system has witnessed a gradual shift towards privatisation over several decades, driven partly by inadequate public investment and growing policy reliance on private providers.

"Healthcare has always had a significant private presence in India. What we are seeing now is governments actively promoting private healthcare and insurance-based models instead of strengthening public healthcare systems," he said.

According to Saligram, underinvestment in public healthcare has created a situation where patients increasingly rely on private providers not out of preference but necessity. "When government hospitals lack medicines, diagnostics or adequate staff, people are pushed towards private healthcare. It is often desperation rather than choice that drives patients to private hospitals," he said.

Saligram also pointed to growing corporatisation of healthcare, arguing that large hospital chains are increasingly dominating the sector. He warned that weak regulation has allowed problems such as overcharging, unnecessary procedures and lack of accountability to persist.

Karibasappa M, State Executive Committee Member of SAAK, Davanagere, criticised the expansion of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models in healthcare. He said health rights groups had earlier organised protests against proposed PPP initiatives in Davanagere district and continue to oppose the outsourcing of healthcare services.

"Patients in government facilities, including Women and Child Hospitals and urban health centres, are frequently asked to purchase medicines and obtain tests outside. This is especially difficult for daily wage workers, domestic workers and other people in the unorganised sector," Karibasappa said.

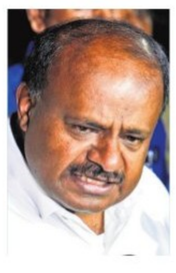
He added that health activists have been demanding legislation guaranteeing free medicines, diagnostics and treatment in government hospitals, and have called for greater investment in government-run medical colleges and healthcare infrastructure. "We believe healthcare is the responsibility of the government. Medicines, tests and treatment should be provided free of cost, and healthcare workers paid adequately and on time," he said.

As the new Health Minister begins his tenure, public health experts say the priorities are clear: Fill vacancies across the system, strengthen PHCs and government hospitals, ensure free medicines and diagnostics, improve maternal healthcare outcomes, support ASHA workers, regulate private healthcare providers and rebuild public confidence in the state's health system. This, they argue, will be critical if Karnataka is to move closer to delivering equitable and affordable healthcare for all.

Bidadi row: HDK accuses Cong govt of misusing PM's name

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru/Mandya

QUESTIONING Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's claim that the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) project in Bidadi has the backing of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Sunday accused the state government of using the PM's name to push the project that is facing strong opposition from farmers.



Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy contended that similar township and industrial projects supported by Modi were implemented in earthquake-hit regions as part of rehabilitation efforts, whereas Bidadi is a fertile agricultural belt with plantations and dairy farming activities. He also questioned whether Shivakumar had fully apprised the PM of the ground realities before seeking support for the project.

"The PM and CM met one-to-one and no one knows what they spoke. The chief minister should not misuse the name of the prime minister to sacrifice the interests of the farmers of the state. He has the power. He is an arrogant person who can do anything," he said.

Later in Mandya, Kumaraswamy branded Shivakumar as a "real estate tycoon". He asked Shivakumar to reveal to people how he became "filthy rich", alleging that the Congress leader's properties grew from a mere 3 acre in 1999 to something worth Rs 1,400 crore by 2018. "He should tell the people of the entire state about this. How can one acquire such a large amount of property? How can one become rich so quickly?" he said.

Meanwhile, he said, "Rahul Gandhi, who recently went to Andaman and made a video, said the environment here is good, save the green. Green is our grid. So I will write a letter to Rahul Gandhi on behalf of Kannadigas to save the Bidadi environment."

"You have your own government in Karnataka, your own CM. Please get information about Karnataka. Why are those who want to protect the environment in Andaman destroying the environment of Karnataka? Your CM says don't give land to farmers in Kanakapura. Farmers' land is being snatched in Bidadi, why this stepmotherly attitude?" he said.

Kumaraswamy said there is full support for a legal fight against the project. "On June 21, we will organise a padayatra in villages under the project area. We have decided to hold a padayatra in 26 villages. We are also ready to lay siege to the Vidhana Soudha later," he said.

Nikhil seeks Rahul's intervention

JDS youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy on Sunday sought the intervention of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in stopping the Bidadi Township project. In response to Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's remark, Nikhil posted a two-page letter addressed to Rahul on X, highlighting "grave humanitarian crisis" unfolding in Karnataka with the Congress government abruptly issuing the final land acquisition notification for the project on June 12. "This aggressive move, executed by your chief minister, completely bypasses public consent and wages a direct war on the most vulnerable 'Sons of the Soil' who feed our nation," he wrote. "On national platforms, you frequently preach the principle of 'Green over Greed' to oppose corporate exploitation. Yet, your government in Karnataka is doing the exact opposite. I urge you to hold your own government accountable, stand with the weak and direct the chief minister to withdraw the final notification and halt this project immediately," he urged. **ENS**

BYV wants Rahul to come to rescue of farmers

BJP State President BY Vijayendra wrote to LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, seeking his intervention to stall the Bidadi township project. The Congress government in the state has chosen not to hear the anguish of its own farmers, he said, claiming he has spoken to thousands of deprived farming families in Bidadi who are losing fertile land. "You travel the country, raising the banner of land rights for farmers. You speak of protecting India's soil from the grip of corporate interests, and you have led yatras built around precisely this cause. Yet here in Karnataka, the Congress chief minister continues unmoved, even as some of our state's poorest farmers are pushed to the brink of losing everything they own. I believe this contradiction deserves your attention, and I write today to seek your position on what can only be described as a "state-engineered land grab" carried out in the name of the Bidadi Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) project," he said in a post on X. "I urge you to direct your chief minister to halt this acquisition until the farmers of Bidadi have been genuinely heard...," he said. **ENS**

DK BROTHERS WANT ZAMEER IN CABINET, BALL IN RAHUL'S COURT

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

POLITICS makes strange bedfellows. Former minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, identified with the former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah camp, has now reportedly shifted his loyalties to Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and is pushing hard for a cabinet berth.

Ahead of the June 3 swearing-in of Shivakumar as chief minister, an audio clip of Zameer allegedly asking his community people to scuttle Congress' chances in the Davanagere bypoll surfaced, scuttling his chances. Zameer wanted to resign as MLA too because of the humiliation, but Shivakumar's brother and lieutenant DK Suresh pacified him as Suresh did not want his brother's swearing-in to be marred by the unsavoury incident, sources said. Now, Suresh is batting strongly for a cabinet berth to Zameer, they added.

On Saturday, Zameer met the DK brothers at their Sadashivanagar residence. Having missed the cabinet berth in the first phase, Zameer now has a lot of competition from Muslim legislators, like Saleem Ahmed, Tanvir Sait, Kaneez Fatima, Rizwan Arshad and others. That is why he is now going all out and meeting top leaders, including Siddaramaiah and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, to push his case.

Former minister Zameer Ahmed Khan calls on Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at the latter's residence in Bengaluru on Saturday. Former MP DK Suresh looks on

It is said that when Siddaramaiah proposed Dr G Parameshwara's name for the chief minister's post, Zameer is said to have favoured Shivakumar. Siddaramaiah had taken Zameer along with him when Rahul Gandhi summoned him to discuss the change in leadership, sources said. Siddaramaiah, however, did not back Zameer for the cabinet berth. But AICC General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal wanted Zameer in, given his contribution to the party's victory in the Kerala assembly polls, another source informed.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda along with Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad reportedly met Rahul Gandhi in Delhi. He is lobbying for Rizwan to be made as minister, a source said.

Guarantees pride of Cong govt, will not be stopped, says CM

Bengaluru: Refuting allegations by opposition parties that the state government is planning to discontinue the guarantee schemes, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar appealed to the public not to heed such speculations. "The Gruha Lakshmi and Gruha Jyothi guarantees are the pride of the Congress government. They will not be stopped under any circumstances. The public should not listen to false news being spread by opposition parties," he said.

BYV: Cong govt paring guarantee beneficiaries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA BJP president and MLA BY Vijayendra on Sunday claimed the Congress government was attempting to reduce the number of beneficiaries under its guarantee schemes, in a bid to reduce the financial burden. "This is the same government that introduced these schemes three years ago. Why did it not consider eligibility and ineligibility at that time?" he questioned.

He alleged that the Congress had promised guarantees to voters before elections, without properly verifying beneficiaries, and was terming the same people ineligible after coming to power. "This amounts to insulting the people who trusted the government," he said.

Vijayendra also accused the Congress government of turning the Dharmasthala case into a political issue. He alleged that the previous Siddaramaiah government had formed an SIT based on claims made by "urban Naxals" without adequate justification. "Millions of devotees from across the country visit Dharmasthala. Siddaramaiah should have exercised greater caution before ordering an SIT probe," he said.

Cong ignoring facts to blame Centre: FM

Nirmala Sitaraman interacts with vendors in Bengaluru on Sunday

Rupee decline due to US fin sectors, says FM

Sitharaman, who was at the Devanahalli BJP office, pointed out that actions by the American financial sector have contributed to fluctuations in the rupee's exchange rate. Even the Japanese yen has lost value against the US dollar, she said. "India has to import crude oil and gas from abroad. We are not self-reliant. Payments for these imports have to be made in US dollars," she stated.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"SHIPPING companies hesitate to send vessels through conflict zones. Insurance premiums increase because ships risk being attacked. Whether a vessel is empty or carrying crude oil, insurance costs rise significantly, and those costs ultimately have to be paid to ensure supplies reach the country." Despite these global headwinds, she emphasised that the Modi government had ensured uninterrupted supplies despite such challenges.

"Unfortunately, none of this seems to matter to the Leader of the Opposition," Sitharaman said.

She rejected allegations that the Centre neglected Karnataka and cited tax devolution, grants and infrastructure investments. "The Karnataka government frequently claims that the Centre is not giving the state its due share. Let us look at the facts. Tax devolution to Karnataka between 2014 and 2026 amounted to about Rs 4 lakh crore – more than five times of the Rs 82,000 crore received in the comparable pre-2014 period," said Sitharaman, who is a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka.

She added that grants-in-aid to Karnataka between 2014 and 2026 stood at around Rs 2.71 lakh crore and that the state had also received more than Rs 18,000 crore under the Centre's 50-year interest-free loan scheme.

Actor and AIADMK deputy propaganda secretary Gautami Tadimalla resigned from the party on Sunday. Gautami had quit the BJP in October 2023 and joined the AIADMK on February 14, 2024

Kerala varsity VCs at RSS event sparks fresh row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ T'Puram

THE participation of three vice-chancellors (VCs) in an RSS programme attended by Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat has kicked up a row with Chief Minister V D Satheesan slamming the senior officials and Leader of Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan calling it an example of RSS' attempt to control higher education. The BJP, meanwhile, condemned the criticisms alleging 'political intolerance.'

Kerala University VC Mohan Kunnummal, MG University VC (in-charge) D Mavoothu and Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University VC C R Prasad participated in the lecture series, '100 Years of Sangh Journey: New Horizons' organised at Uday Palace Convention Centre in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday as part of the RSS centenary celebrations.

Both Satheesan and Higher Education Minister Roji M John criticised the senior officials' move and asked them to apologise to society. Satheesan's Facebook post followed criticism by Leader of Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan earlier in the day in which he alleged that neither CM nor UDF were responding to the issue.

Satheesan wrote that the act does not go well with educational legacy and dignity of their designation. "By participating in an event attended by the RSS leader who speaks extreme communalism, they have tarnished the respect Kerala society has towards the designation of a vice-chancellor... The three vice-chancellors should apologise to Kerala," he wrote. Pinarayi said, "All this is taking place amid concerning incidents regarding saffronisation of the higher education sector...It is unclear as to why the CM, other ministers, or even UDF allies including the Muslim League are doubtful of opposing the Sangh Parivar."

HOMECOMING

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Dr G Parameshwara goes on a road show as his supporters throng the streets on his maiden visit to Koratagere Assembly constituency, which he represents, in Tumakuru district on Sunday | EXPRESS

TMC(M) quits NDA; may go independent

CHENNAI: Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar) president GK Vasan on Sunday announced that his party was quitting the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The decision was taken after detailed consultations with the party's executive committee members and office-bearers, Vasan told reporters. Stating that the TMC(M), founded 12 years ago, had contested both Assembly and Lok Sabha elections without achieving satisfactory results, Vasan said party cadres are of the view that the organisation should contest the upcoming local body elections, expected next year, on its own. He expressed hope that the decision would help strengthen the party at the grassroots level. Vasan clarified that the TMC(M)'s exit from the alliance was not due to any differences with the BJP, the AIADMK or other NDA constituents. He noted that continuous alliance politics had inadvertently led to a dilution of the party's standalone strength and diminished the field activities of its office-bearers. Vasan emphasised that the TMC-M has historically epitomised "alliance dharma" since the days of its founder GK Moopanar. The TMC-M chief also said that functioning independently would allow the party to freely voice and agitate for regional causes, without coalition constraints. **ENS**

Fertiliser shortage worries farmers across Karnataka

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

WITH monsoon firmly set in and kharif sowing activities on in full swing across Karnataka, farmers are confronting an acute shortage of key fertilisers, sparking widespread complaints and anxiety over the timely availability of inputs for the season.

A farmer said, "They are giving us just one bag of urea per acre. What are we supposed to do with that? We need at least three-four bags per acre."

The demand has surged sharply, worsening supply constraints already strained by global factors. DV Prasad, a former senior IAS officer who has served as additional chief secretary and development commissioner, said, "There is around 30% spike in demand. This is because of panic buying on one side and unscrupulous traders hoarding fertilisers on the other."

BJP leader BC Patil, a former agriculture minister, said the Union government has released Karnataka's share of fertilisers and accused the state government of failing to manage the situation properly, leading to the current crisis.

The shortage has emerged at a critical time when international supply chains remain vulnerable. Geopolitical tensions in West Asia have previously disrupted fertiliser imports, adding to pressure on domestic availability precisely when farmers need supplies the most.

Former agriculture minister Cheluvaraya Swamy expressed deep concern and called for proactive intervention by the government and administration. "Now, during a situation like this -- when supplies are affected because of the hostile situation in West Asia and demand is peaking because of the rains and the sowing season, I urge the government and the administration to address this proactively," Swamy told TNIE. "I have written earlier and will speak to them again to ensure that they deal with this situation with all the care and concern it deserves."

The current shortage highlights long-standing vulnerabilities in India's fertiliser economy: heavy dependence on imports for key nutrients such as urea and DAP, the environmental costs of excessive chemical fertiliser use and difficulties of building farmer resilience through sustainable practices. While panic buying and alleged hoarding are immediate triggers, deeper structural issues — including timely procurement, efficient distribution logistics, and adequate buffer stocks — appear to be aggravating the problem.

Political analyst BS Murthy noted that the primary task of Chief Minister DK Shivakumar is to ensure there is no hoarding or black marketing. Farmer's issues are hot potato for any government, the Centre or state. The chief minister has to address, take charge and absolutely prioritise fertiliser availability as there is no agriculture minster as yet, the onus is on CM right now. Ensuring zero hoarding / black marketing is the need of the hour as sowing season has started and the demand for fertilizer is up, he said.

Agriculture expert Prof Prakash Kammardi said that while the war has created an extraordinary global situation, the state government — setting aside Centre-state politics — must ensure equitable and fair distribution of available stocks and use the crisis as an opportunity to explore alternative methods of supplementing soil nutrients.s

Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar greets Kerala PWD Minister PK Basheer PIC: X

Joshi calls on youth to power India's innovation-led growth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi on Sunday urged innovators, entrepreneurs and researchers to contribute to building a self-reliant and developed India through innovation-driven manufacturing, indigenous technologies and entrepreneurship.

Addressing the valedictory session of the two-day RISE Conclave 2026 (Research, Innovation, Startups and Entrepreneurship) in Bengaluru, Joshi said India is undergoing a transformative phase driven by scientific advancements, technological innovation and the aspirations of its young population. He noted that the country's growing scale and developmental ambitions require solutions designed and developed within India to address national priorities effectively.

Highlighting India's journey from concerns over food security in earlier decades to emerging as a manufacturing and innovation hub, the minister stressed the need to strengthen research and development, expand manufacturing capabilities and foster a culture of innovation. He said the country's demographic dividend presents a significant opportunity to accelerate economic growth and establish technological leadership.

Joshi said sustained policy support, infrastructure development and innovation-focused initiatives have helped create a conducive ecosystem for entrepreneurship and technology-driven enterprises.

Hope for Bairakuppe bridge plan

AGENCIES @ Wayanad

KARNATAKA Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has assured that steps would be taken to expedite the long-pending Bairakuppe bridge project connecting Kerala and Karnataka, state PWD Minister PK Basheer said on Sunday.

Basheer said Shivakumar conveyed the assurance during a meeting held in Bengaluru and informed him that the proposal would soon be placed before the Karnataka Cabinet.

The proposed interstate bridge across the Kabani river would connect Perikkalloor in Kerala's Wayanad district with Bairakuppe in Karnataka's Kodagu district. According to a statement issued by Basheer, Shivakumar said directions had already been issued to initiate the required procedures for the project. The foundation stone for the bridge was jointly laid on September 22, 1994, by the then chief ministers of Kerala (K Karunakaran) and Karnataka (Veerappa Moily).

EXPRESS READ

Cop booked for sexual assault, forced abortions

HANAMKONDA: A sub-inspector posted at the Central Crime Station of the Warangal Police Commissionerate was booked for allegedly sexually assaulting, threatening and harassing a woman on multiple occasions in Telangana. The woman alleged that the accused forcibly established a physical relation-ship with her in October 2022, recorded explicit photographs and used them to blackmail her. She was pregnant twice and was forced to undergo abortions. **ENS**

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE, VELLORE

AS.NO: 45/2025

Manickammal and others ... Plaintiffs

Vs

Lalitha Ammal and others ... Defendants

NOTICE

R 5 - Neelavathi, wife of Govindhan, residing at 499, 4th main, lakshmi Devi nagar, geetha school road, Nandhini layout, Bangaluru-96

Please take notice it is posted for your appearance on **01.07.2026 at 10:30 AM** in the above court for your objections if any by you in person or through your advocate, failing which an ex party order will be passed as against you

A.RAMESH
ADVOCATE
Vellore
9842631668

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOST OF DOCUMENTS

The General Public are hereby notified that my cient **1) Sri Deepak Shankaraiah Gowdar** S/o. Late. G.M. Shankaraiah, **2) Sri. Kishorechandra S Gowdar** S/o Late. G.M.Shankaraiah, **3) Smt. Pushparekha W/o. Kiran Shankaraiah Gowdar** S/o Late. G.M. Shankaraiah, has lost / misplaced original documents, in respect of the property bearing No.1036, IV Block, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru 560010,

The details of the Same are mentioned below.

1. Allotment letter dated 25-09-1957, issued by the CITB in respect of the Property bearing No-1036, IV Block, Dr.Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, Standing in the name of **Sri G.M. Shankaraiah.**

2. Possession Certificate (memo) dated 24-06-1959 /05-01-1959 issued by the CITB in respect of the property bearing No.1036, IV Block, Dr.Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010 Standing in the name of **Sri. G.M.Shankaraiah.**

If any person having any right, claim, title of interest in the Said property or the original document mentioned above are requested to inform the undersigned or to purchaser **Mr. Saravana.K,** No.684, 11th Main, 38th Cross, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010

The public is hereby cautioned not to enter into any lease, sale Mortgage or lease in respect of the Said property on the basis of these lost Documents. No Such lease shall be binding on the Bank or the rightful owner.

In regard we have lodge a complaint before to near Rajajinagar Police Station.

If any person found in case of this original document kindly required to address within **07 days** from the date of publication of this notice and objection or Claims received to the mentioned address of **Mr. Saravana.K,** No. 684, 11th Main, 38th Cross, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010.

Contact Details
Saravana K. Mobile: 99002 67006
Karthik K. Mobile: 9916785089

Date: 15-06-2026. Bangalore

Your Guide to Spicy living
INDULGE
Every Friday with
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Canara Bank,
ARM Branch I
2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001.

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable and Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provisio to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable and immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **30.06.2026 (10.00 AM to 10.30 AM),** for recovery of **Rs. 72,29,691.03/-,** (Sevnety Two Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninty One and Zero Three paisa) as on 09.06.2026 with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **1. Sri Narayanaswamy K C** S/o. Chinnappa, residing at # 157, Kithaganur Colony, KR Puram, Bengaluru-560036 **2. Smt. Shashikala** W/o. Narayanaswamy K C, residing at # 157, Kithaganur Colony, KR Puram, Bengaluru-560036.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **29.06.2026, 5.00 pm.**

(Rs. in lacs)

Lot	Description of the immovable/ movable assets	Reserve Price Rs.	EMD Rs.	Incremental value Rs.
1	All the piece and parcel of vacant land bearing CMC Khata No. 241/1, Old Khata No. 241/5, portion of Sy. No. 5/3 of Muthur Village, present ward No. 6, Old Ward No. 3, Block No. 9 ,No. 589, Doddaballapura City, Benguluru Rural Dist, measuring East to West : 76 feet and to South : 43 feet totally measuring 3268 Sq ft and **bounded on the : East** : Property belongs to Lingappa, **West by :** Property belongs to Jademuniyappa, **North by :** Private Property, **South by :** 10 feet Road.	36.00	3.6	0.50

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com)** or **E-Wallet of M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, **Canara Bank, Ph. No. 080-25310066, 9486092152** during office hours on any working day.

Date: 10.06.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Offier**
Place: Bangalore **Canara Bank**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Canara Bank,
ARM Branch I
2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001.

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable and Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provisio to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **30.06.2026 (11.00 AM to 11.30 AM),** for recovery of **Rs. 65,90,415.5** (Sixty Five Lakhs Nimnty Thousand Four Hundred Fifteen and five paisa) as on 09.06.2026 with further interest and cost there on due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **1) Sri Abhishek T R** S/o. V M Rudramurthy Residing at No. 36, 4th Block, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Behind SBI Bank, Malagala Main Road, Bangalore-560091. **2) V M Rudra Murthy** S/o. Veerabhadriaha, Residing at # 36, 4th Block, BDALayout, Gangamma Garden, Behind SBI, Malagala Main Road, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560091.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **29.06.2026, 5.00 pm.** **(Rs. in lacs)**

Lot	Description of the immovable/ movable assets	Reserve Price Rs.	EMD Rs.	Incremental value Rs.
1	All that piece and parcel of Residential two bed rooms Residential Flat at "MIYANS GREEN RESIDENCY" bearing Flat No.302, on the Third Floor and measuring total Super built area of 1018 Sq. Ft constructed on Residential Converted Vacant Site Bearing No.112, present village panchayath property No.15020010320020117l/240/112, dated: 30/03/2015,Site Bearing No.113, present Village panchayath property No.15020010320020117 2/240/113, dated: 30/03/2015, formed in B.M.R.D.A Approved Layout, Situated at "CELEBRITY LAKE VIEW" Carved out in Survey Nos.56, 72, 73/2, 74/1 & 74/2 of Rajapura Village, JiganiHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District property consisting of one living, one kitchen, one dining, two Bed rooms, One toilet, Two balcony, One utility and internal passages, including one covered car parking slot at Stilt Floor and inclusive of proportionate share in the common areas along with all rights, interest and privileges thereon. 203 Sq. Ft of Undivided Share and **bounded on the : East by :** Corridor, **West by :** Set Back, **North by :** Flat No. 301, South by : Flat No. 303,.	36.00	3.60	1.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com)** or may contact Chief Manager, ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, **Canara Bank, Ph. No. 080-25310066, 9916585952 and 9486092152** during office hours on any working day.

Date: 10.06.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Offier**
Place: Bangalore **Canara Bank**

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE FAMILY JUDGE AT TIRUVALLUR

H.M.O.P. No. 291 OF 2025

Mr. S. BAGATH SINGH, Age 49 Years, S/o. Late. Durai. Sundaresan, No. 30, Sathyamurthy Street, Tiruvallur - 602001. ...Petitioner

-Vs-

Smt. R. SUJATHA, Age 48 Years, D/o. Ramappa, No.131, Hanchinamane, Jinkethimane Halli, Seegabagi, Bhadravathi-577301, Shimoga District, Karnataka. ...Respondent

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT

Please take notice that the Petitioner has filed above Hindu Marriage Original Petition as against you before the Hon'ble Family Judge at Tiruvallur. The above said Petition is posted for your appearance **on 29.06.2026 at 10.30 A.M** before the above said Court. You have to appear either in person or through an Advocate, otherwise you will be set Ex-Parte and further orders will be passed.

Sd/- **Mr. S. SUGADEV,** B.A.B.L.,
Advocate & Solicitor of England and Wales
Counsel for Petitioner
Mobile: 9150150777

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, CHENNAI BENCH
COMPANY SCHEME PETITION Nos. CP(CAA)/39(CHE)/2026, CP(CAA)/42(CHE)/2026 and CP(CAA)/38(CHE)/2026
CONNECTED WITH
COMPANY SCHEME APPLICATION Nos. CA(CAA)/13/CHE/2026, CA(CAA)/14/CHE/2026 and CA(CAA)/12/CHE/2026

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013;
And
In the matter of Petitions under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamation) Rules, 2016;
And
In the matter of a Composite Scheme of Arrangement between Veranda Learning Solutions Limited, Veranda XL Learning Solutions Private Limited, J.K. Shah Commerce Education Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors ("Composite Scheme").

Veranda Learning Solutions Limited,
Veranda XL Learning Solutions Private Limited and
J.K. Shah Commerce Education Limited,
all having their registered office at G.R. Complex,
First Floor, No. 807-808, Anna Salai,
Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035. ...Petitioners

NOTICE OF HEARING OF COMPANY SCHEME PETITIONS

NOTICE is hereby given that the above Company Scheme Petitions under Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking sanction of the Composite Scheme were presented by the Petitioner Companies on April 29, 2026 and were admitted by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench ("Tribunal") vide Order dated June 03, 2026. The Hon'ble Tribunal has fixed **Tuesday, July 07, 2026,** as the date of hearing of the said Company Scheme Petitions.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Company Scheme Petitions should send to the undersigned a notice of such intention, signed by such person or such person's Advocate, stating the name and address of such person, so as to reach the undersigned at the address mentioned below not later than seven (7) days before the date fixed for hearing of the said Company Scheme Petitions. Any person seeking to oppose the said Company Scheme Petitions shall also furnish, along with such notice, the grounds of opposition or a copy of the affidavit intended to be relied upon.

A copy of the Company Scheme Petitions may be obtained from the undersigned upon payment of the prescribed charges by emailing the Petitioner Companies at secretarial@verandalearning.com

Sd/-
Mr. Pawan Jhabakh
Advocate for the Petitioners
No. 115, Luz Church Road,
Mylapore, Chennai – 600 004

Date : June 15, 2026
Place : Chennai

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560001.
E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable and immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank**, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **30.06.2026 from 11.00 A.M. to 11.30 A.M.,** for recovery of **Rs. 88,28,921.45 (Rupees Eighty Eight Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One and Paise Forty Five Only)** plus further interest thereon from **09.06.2026** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **(1) Mrs. Arshiya Begum, (2) Mr. Mahammed Iqbal Shaik, Both are residing at :** Flat No.001 3A, Masjid E Kaif, Bheemanna Layout, Shampur Main Road, Bangalore-560032.

The Earnest Money shall be deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **29.06.2026 - 5.00 pm.** **(₹.In Lakhs)**

Lot	Description of the Immovable assets :	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value	Inspection date & time
1	**SCHEDULE "A"** : All that piece and Parcel of property residentially converted land measuring 2 Acres 8 Guntas in Sy. No. 108/2, situated at Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, (land converted for non agricultural residential purposes vide Official Memorandum dated:11-11-1992 vide No.B/DIS/ALN/SR(A)/103/1998-99, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore), together with 200 residential apartment known as Garden Residency, unit/s in "A,B,C,D,E & F" Blocks together with car parking slots, and bounded on the: East by: Land in Sy. No. 108/2, West by: Road, carved out of kharab land, North by: Road, carved out of kharab land, South by: Tank Bed. **Coordinates of the property** **Latitude-12.805049, Longitude- 77.676867** **SCHEDULE "B" :** (Undivided share, right, title and interest of land to be conveyed under this sale Deed) 400 Sq.Ft. of undivided share, right, title and interest of land in the Schedule "A" Property. **SCHEDULE "C" :** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Flat No. BE-301 totally measuring a super built up area of 1089 Sq.Ft. in the Second Floor in "E" Block along with covered car parking space in the Basement/Surface/Stilt Floor numbered as BE-301 along with 400 Sq.Ft. of undivided interest in land comprising Schedule "A" property in one of such apartment units/flats in the said apartment Building "GARDEN RESIDENCY", situated at Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Aneka Taluk, Bangalore District, Bangalore and bounded on: East by: Residential Apartment privately numbered as E-302 in the second floor in "E" Block, West by: Common Staircase Area, North by: Area opens to sky of the apartment building, South by: Common corridor.	₹. 45.00	₹. 4.50	₹. 0.50	20.06.2026, 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal** and may contact **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 9916585952 and 9486092152** during office hours on any working day.

Date : 13.06.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

EDITORIAL

"Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance" — Verna Myers

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

SC MARKS HOME CARE, NOW EQUALITY SHOULD DEFINE ITS TRUE WORTH

THE Supreme Court's recent judgement in *Shishupal @ Shish Ram vs Surjeet* is likely to be remembered for a phrase rarely heard in Indian courtrooms: "the homemaker builds the nation". In a country where millions of women spend their lives caring for families without pay or recognition, those words matter. So does the judgement.

The case arose from a motor accident compensation claim. But the court has done more than revise an award. It has recognised that the labour performed within the home is neither invisible nor incidental. By creating a separate head of compensation for "loss of domestic care" and fixing its minimum value at ₹30,000 a month, the court has sought to give legal recognition to work that has long been taken for granted.

The judgement is particularly significant because it confronts the way courts have historically treated homemakers. Notional income figures have often been unrealistically low, bearing little relation to the range of responsibilities women shoulder every day. A homemaker is not merely someone who cooks or cleans. She raises children, cares for the elderly, manages the household and, in countless ways, enables other family members to earn and pursue their ambitions. The court rightly notes that the loss suffered by a family cannot be reduced to a conventional claim for consortium.

It also addresses a contradiction that has persisted for decades. Homemakers have often been described as dependants of earning members even when the functioning of the household depends substantially on their labour. The judgement rightly rejects that view. Unpaid work remains work.

Yet an important question remains. The court repeatedly acknowledges that a homemaker's contribution cannot truly be measured in money. If so, how was ₹30,000 arrived at? The judgement describes the figure as a basic minimum and a stand-in for a far greater contribution. That may be a practical solution for compensation cases. But it is still an approximation.

The larger challenge is to move beyond approximation. Valuing unpaid care work requires data, research and wider public debate. The court has taken an important first step and given tribunals much-needed guidance. But recognising the economic value of domestic labour cannot remain solely a judicial exercise. If homemakers truly help build the nation, public policy and the law must find more credible ways of recognising their contribution.

HEIGHTS TO RISE IN B'LURU, PRESSURE WILL BUILD TOO

BENGALURU'S cityscape is poised for a dramatic transformation: vertical expansion, denser development, higher population density and diminishing green cover. Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's announcement that buildings on mid-sized plots of 2,400 sq ft may rise to 21 metres, or six floors, signals another real-estate boom in the city. Setback rules were recently relaxed and now there is a one-time exemption for obtaining an occupation certificate (OC) to avail of electricity connections for plots of similar sizes. Together, these measures offer much-needed relief to homeowners and developers whose projects had stalled amid e-khata confusion and floor area ratio (FAR) violations.

Yet the announcement sits uneasily with a Supreme Court order issued in December 2024, which stipulated that new electricity, water and sewage connections could be granted only to property owners holding a valid OC. With compliance frequently falling short of planning norms, many owners were unable to secure OCs. Apartment sales slowed sharply and revenue streams dwindled. The exemption, presented as a one-time, 100-day scheme, sidesteps the court's directive.

The government is now considering an ordinance to formalise the move, although by and large the opposition BJP also supports higher FAR limits. Supporters argue that the scheme will free up the real estate activity and help moderate Bengaluru's notoriously high rental costs, particularly in apartment complexes that have valid OCs. The Bangalore Apartments' Federation has welcomed the decision, especially as the government moves to implement the Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Act, 2025. The legislation is expected to improve transparency, strengthen the rights of apartment owners, standardise maintenance charges, establish deadlines for transferring undivided land shares and curb encroachments on common areas.

While the package may appear to offer benefits across the board, concerns about its long-term consequences have sparked a broader debate about the sustainability of such growth. Is Bengaluru prepared for it, and can its ageing infrastructure cope? Given the government's uneven record in maintaining roads, drains, traffic systems and waste management, doubts are inevitable. A single spell of rain routinely exposes the city's weaknesses. Looser building norms could encourage widespread violations, compromise public safety and invite legal complications. Monetising every available square foot may intensify both crowding and vehicular congestion. The chief minister's ambitions for Bengaluru are expansive, but neglecting basic norms risks altering the city's very character.

QUICK TAKE

GREENER FAREWELL

HUMAN composting is emerging as a gentler, natural way to say goodbye, gaining attention as an alternative to burial. Some facilities in the US and Sweden place remains in biodegradable shrouds with wood chips, mulch and wildflowers, allowing natural decomposition in controlled conditions. Within weeks, the process produces nutrient-rich soil that families may keep, scatter or donate for conservation work. Supporters say it cuts emissions, avoids pollutants from cremation and reduces pressure on crowded burial spaces. Critics remain uneasy about changing funeral traditions, though the method is regulated and increasingly accepted where legal. As cities grow without pause, and burial and green spaces shrink, it's worth wondering if this will become widely acceptable.

Unless schools become student-centred and universities regain autonomy and diversity, India's education system will continue to struggle with quality, innovation and social mobility

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF EDUCATION

KAPIL SIBAL
Former Union education minister

SOURAV ROY

OUR education system suffers from deep-rooted pedagogical and systemic challenges. Though schemes such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the Right to Education Act, 2009 and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 have significantly expanded access and enrolment, the system continues to struggle with quality, equity, retention and relevance. A largely rigid, textbook-driven and examination-oriented education system fails to nurture children's cognitive abilities and holistic development. A massive shortage of teachers and faculty, infrastructure gaps and occasional campus unrest further compound the problem.

Government schools constitute the backbone of our education system, accounting for 69 percent of institutions and about 50 percent of enrolments. But infrastructure and outcomes show uneven progress. Public spending on education falls well below the NEP, 2020 target of 6 percent. Even past governments have never achieved this target. There is near-universal enrolment at lower levels, but problems of retention, equity and learning quality persist. The gross enrolment ratio demonstrates progress that tapers off at higher levels. Children dropping out of school is a worrying phenomenon. Retention has improved, but only half of students entering Class 9 reach Class 12, while over a third of those starting school do not reach Class 9. Dropping out is attributed to economic pressures, migration, child labour, early marriage, poor infrastructure and perceived low learning returns.

Learning outcomes, as per *Annual Status of Education Report 2024*, paint a concerning portrait of 'schooling without learning'. About 49 percent of those in Class 5 can only read Class 2 texts fluently, and only about 31 percent can perform division. This low proficiency is largely attributed to rote and textbook-heavy teaching methods that dominate our classrooms.

Our system fails to identify a child's strengths and weaknesses and encourage them to explore knowledge beyond the classroom. A uniform, tailor-made education system with a rigid textbook-and-exam-centric regime does not cater to the diverse attributes and learning capacities of children. The system prioritises rote memorisation and uniform content delivery over experiential learning, play, inquiry, arts, practical skills, ethical reasoning and real-world problem-solving. This 'one-size-fits-all' approach ignores individual interests, learning styles, paces and talents, funnelling students toward high-stakes exams like the Joint Entrance Examination and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test. The result is widespread stress, anxiety, disengagement and career mismatches. NEP, 2020 seeks to address this through multidisciplinary, flexible learning, reduced content load, experiential and competency-based methods and the 5+3+3+4 curricular structure. However, as of 2025-26, NEP remains largely on paper; its implementation uneven.

The recent textbook revision presents a selective and majoritarian interpretation of history and culture, marginalising diverse regional, linguistic, religious, caste and minority perspectives. It would probably result in social division instead of promoting pluralism. Some articulations of the 'Bharatiya' perspectives tend towards ideological saffronisation, erasing syncretic elements, thereby creating a culture of mismatch, especially for marginalised groups. The three-language formula has sparked resistance in non-Hindi-speaking states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, leading to withholding of central funds. Such policies highlight tensions between national integration and linguistic diversity.

In higher education, chronic underfunding persists. Funds are disproportionately diverted to elite institutions while state universities crumble, making NEP targets unattainable. Research and development (R&D) expenditure has been stagnating at 0.64-0.7 percent of the GDP, and universities contribute only 8-9 percent of national R&D. In contrast, among the world's advanced economies, South Korea invests 4.8 percent, Israel 5.4 percent, the US 2.8 percent and China 2.1 percent.

Declining research output and global rankings further highlight these shortcomings. Research output in India grows only in quantity, while quality remains low, amid brain drain and an underfunded National Research Foundation. Centralisation of the examination system, thanks to the Supreme Court as well, has eroded federalism and institutional autonomy. Apart from constant question paper leaks in high-stakes centralised examinations conducted by the National Testing Agency, such a system curtails universities' ability to set their own admission criteria. Institutions are forced to admit students pursuant to counselling, absent curriculum flexibility and the ability to cater to disparate needs of the institution. Universities should be free to shape their vision to cover community needs and achieve excellence. Students from state boards, rural areas and regional-language mediums are put at a disadvantage. This fuels the coaching industry, putting an avoidable burden on parents and students alike. The way forward is decentralisation of the examination system through innovation and alignment with local needs.

The shortage of faculty is critically high. As of January 31, 2025, 28.56 percent of sanctioned teaching posts were vacant, with professor-level vacancies standing at 56 percent. The position of state public universities is equally worrisome. Though premier institutions like the IITs produce world-class talent, brain drain remains significant, with one-third of IIT graduates migrating abroad. But even these institutions are unable to maintain the prescribed student-faculty ratio. Theory-heavy curriculums limit the integration of practical, interdisciplinary and emerging skills such as AI, critical thinking and soft skills. Overall graduate employability is between 42-56 percent. The curriculum is not aligned with industry expectations, resulting in modest placements.

Politicisation of campuses has intensified, turning universities into ideological battlegrounds. In the Academic Freedom Index 2026, India ranks 156th out of 179 countries. Freedom to research, teach and express views is weakening. Intimidating teachers and students over ideological differences undermines the role of universities as centres of learning. Meritless appointments erode universities' autonomy and compromise learning outcomes. Key posts of vice-chancellors and faculty are often filled by perceived loyalists and ideologically aligned figures, bypassing merit.

Unless university education gets rid of ad hocism and autonomy and diversity become the 'mantra' of higher education, the future will remain somewhat bleak.

(Views are personal)
(On X @KapilSibal)

Full article on newindianexpress.com

VOYAGE THROUGH BELIEF

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

IT'S 43°C in Delhi-NCR, and the mind turns to holiday encounters as a diversion. I remember a chatty pavement bookseller I met in Bali. "I think democracy is rubbish," declared the spike-haired, sharp-eyed young man without a preamble. "Oh God," I muttered distractedly, looking to choose a secondhand book for holiday reading, since I'd already raced through the ones I'd brought along.

"Talk to me!" he said, pulling out a plastic chair and offering me a clove-scented 'Sampoorna' cigarette that I politely declined, which he then lit for himself. "Do you have an attention problem?" I said mildly, "Please talk to the Australian tourists, I'd just like to buy a book."

"Talk to me!" he insisted. "You're from India, aren't you? I don't meet many Indians. What do you think about democracy? What do you think about God? I'm Muslim, what are you?"

Clearly there was no escape except to leave, and I so wanted to look at the books. I extracted a yet-unread Joanna Trollope title lurking between the best-sellers and was pleased to spot Vikram Seth, Amitav Ghosh and, God bless us all, *Malgudi Days*. Also, something promisingly titled, *The Revenge of the Middle-aged Woman*, except that I wasn't interested. Not when I'd gone snorkelling, explored Borobudur, scampered up and down green Indonesian hillsides and cooled off in boulder-strewn rivers that looked like our Betwa and Shipra.

"I'm from Sumatra," he announced, which got my attention because of Rajendra Chola's navy going there to school King Vijayatunga, who was harassing the Chettiars in their China trade. So I set the book aside, sat down, and really looked at him.

"Why do you have a long, straight nose?" he demanded, "Why is mine flat?" "I don't know those answers," I said, "Why do you think of democracy badly?" "Does it make life better for the poor?" he said belligerently, but I was not in the mood to argue. "Why do you want to know my religion?" I asked in return. "Everybody is fighting about religion. What do you think?" he said. "I think it's stupid to fight," I replied, "I'm sure God doesn't approve of it." He shot me a keen look. "And you're Hindu?" he asked. "Yes. Do you think Almighty God dislikes me for a different way of praying?" I laughed. "Certainly not!" he exclaimed and I rose to leave.

"Twenty thousand rupiah only," he grinned (around ₹100), handing back *The Best of Friends* by Joanna Trollope with a flourish. "Suksma," I said, Balinese for "thank you". "Om Swasti Astu," he said, palms together, meaning "May God keep you well", which is actually the Balinese greeting, not goodbye, and we parted cordially in a haze of clove that rang with shared ancestral echoes.

I got another jolt of awareness about ambivalence in faith while holidaying in Goa. Strolling around Mapusa, I passed a church dedicated to the Madonna and was told she was a 'miracle lady', as Hindus speak of Kanchi Kamakshi. But in the next breath, my local informant spoke disparagingly of some religious practices as 'superstition'.

EXPRESS

> Even if beliefs differ, it's character that counts. Cultural adherence coded by centuries of knowledge is hard to eliminate. While not everyone gets to confront ambivalence to faith head-on, one can learn from the many inspiring stories that stand the test of time

A memory kicked in of someone else's words, from Shakespeare's '*Henry IV*', Part One, Act Three, Scene One:

Hotspur: "I cannot choose/sometimes he angers me,/With telling me of the mould warp and the ant,/Of the dreamer Merlin and his prophecies,/And of a dragon and a finless fish,/A clip-wing'd griffin and a moulten raven,/A couching lion and a ramping cat,/And such a deal of skimble-skamble stuff/As puts me from my faith."

And by and by, the counter-argument goes like this:

Mortimer: "In faith, he is a worthy gentleman/Exceedingly well read and profited/In strange concealments, valiant as a lion/And as wondrous affable and as bountiful /As the mines of India."

Don't these medieval words put it rather well that even if beliefs differ, it's character that counts?

Moreover, cultural adherence coded by centuries is hard to eliminate and why should we, when there are many inspiring stories to learn from? Of course, we have to understand them first.

A Chinese tale I like in this regard concerns Huineng, 617-713 CE, who stands ten feet tall in Zen Buddhism as the Sixth Patriarch of Ch'an (Chinese Zen). It's said he was an illiterate woodcutter who was granted enlightenment in a single flash. Xuanzang, who came to India and stayed in Nalanda for five years, was 15 years older and both lived in the Tang period, the golden age of Chinese culture. Thomas Cleary of Harvard, who translated many Zen classics, did the first English version of Huineng's own *sutra* and his commentary on the *Hiraka* (Diamond) *Sutra*, back in 1998.

Alas, Huineng had to escape to the mountains from jealous people. Many seekers went looking for him there, including 'Fa-Ta, a man from Hongzhou', who had left home at age seven and learnt the *Lotus Sutra* by heart. He bowed to Huineng without his head touching the ground.

"This is not like bowing at all, what have you learnt?" chided Huineng. "I've recited the *Lotus Sutra* 3,000 times," said Fa-Ta proudly."Even 10,000 times without understanding is useless. 'Fa-Ta' means 'Arrival at Truth'. But have you ever arrived at Truth (Ta-Fa)?" asked the Master. The mistaken seeker realised that knowing without understanding had no value.

I rejoice about Valmiki and Vyasa, who left tonnes of spiritual advice disguised as interesting stories that each generation has to understand and pass on with joyful awareness. I wish I could share my favourites with that candid bookseller in Bali.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Federal backing

Ref: *Awesome foursome rattles BJP* (Jun 14). It's good auguries for a democracy like India to have both unitary and federal structures accommodated in the Constitution. The author has rightly assessed the cohesive strength of the southern states. But the future is unpredictable. Most importantly, governance must be above the party in power.
Jitendranath Guru, Padampur

TMC's tests

Ref: *Legislature awaits clarity* (Jun 13). To restore public confidence, the TMC should adopt a more cohesive and disciplined approach, strengthen its internal leadership and reconnect with the electorate through effective political campaigns. The present crisis may well prove to be a decisive test of the party's future.
Anfas P, Wayanad

Voter appeal

Ref: *Symbolism of power dressing* (Jun 14). The piece on sartorial politics is a timely reminder that clothing choices carry real historical weight in India. The Gandhi-Ambedkar dichotomy in dress was never trivial. It is heartening that political leaders today still think carefully about what their attire communicates with voters.
Pon Arun Kumar, Tiruppur

Compensate sailors

Ref: *Modi-trump talks on Wed* (Jun 14). Citizens subscribe to the sanguinity that the PM will set the tone for a huge compensation from the Trump administration for the irreparable loss of three seafarers onboard *MT Settlebello* shot down by the US military.
T M Uday Shankar, Hyderabad

Full circle

Ref: *14 women get permanent commission* (Jun 14). The Supreme Court's 2021 verdict admitting women in the NDA had cleared decks to empower *naari shakti*. President Murmu had rightly recorded this as a "watershed moment". Kalpana Chawla's circle of feats is now near-complete. It surely is a moral booster for the young generation.
C Chandrasekaran Bharathi, Madurai

Disposable lives

Ref: *Price of a life* (*The New Sunday Express Magazine*, Jun 14). It was with a heavy heart that I read the article. The disposable nature of lives suggests that as every minute passes in India, a person—young or old—lives on borrowed time. Wit and wisdom are sadly missing to avoid such tragedies.
Sanath Kumar T S, email

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj
Mother Earth gives us life. Use only as much fertiliser as is needed; only then will the health of our soil be preserved. This is the 'Save the Fields Campaign'.

Bhagwant Mann @BhagwantMann
Thanks for the support received from the voters of Sohana. We are working alongside grassroots leaders to bring governance directly to the common people.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
May every small business and shop thrive, bringing smiles to everyone's face. May our India chirp and flourish once again like the golden bird it once was!

NDA targets Mission Delimitation

NEW EQUATIONS

Lok Sabha stays out of ruling alliance's reach

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

EVEN as the Centre is exploring the possibility of reintroducing the delimitation bill in the Lok Sabha, the BJP-led NDA is still far from touching the magic figure of 362, despite the likely TMC switchover.

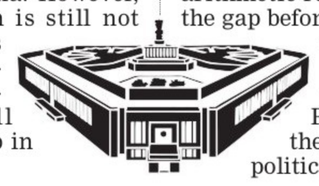
To pass constitutional amendment bills, the government needs the support of at least two-thirds of members present and voting in both Houses of Parliament. Sources say the government is keen to pass the delimitation bill to implement women's reservation in the Lok Sabha ahead of the 2029 general election.

The NDA will need 362 to get a two-thirds majority in a house of 543 members. While the NDA alliance has 293 members, its strength could rise to 313 if 20 rebel TMC MPs form a separate group and extend support to the government. However, the NDA still needs 49 votes for a two-thirds majority. In the previous Budget session, the constitutional amendment linking delimitation to the women's reservation bill was defeated in the Lok Sabha by the opposition, even as the NDA held 298 votes.

On Sunday, the rebel TMC MPs announced that they are merging with a regional party and will seek recognition as a separate bloc in the Lok Sabha. The rebel MPs also claim that they have the support of 22 MPs. However, constitutional expert PDT Achary points out that under para 4 of the 10th schedule, MPs or MLAs have no freedom to merge with any party. "Only the original political party can merge with another party. In this case, the TMC is led by Mamata. After such a merger takes place, the MPs or MLAs can only 'agree' with the merger. There should be 2/3rd of them to agree to the merger."

Experts point out that even if they switch over, the TMC MPs will not be able to vote in favour of the NDA unless the matter is resolved by the EC. Otherwise, they may face a disqualification appeal by TMC chief Mamata Banerjee. Even with such support, the NDA would remain well below the 362 members required for a two-thirds majority. The BJP may also be eyeing a few members from Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP), which have 9 and 4 MPs, respectively. However, all MPs attended a meeting called by Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday.

The BJP may also reach out to the DMK, which exited the INDIA bloc after its Tamil Nadu ally, the Congress, allied with the Vijay-led TVK government following the assembly election. The DMK has 22 MPs in the Lok Sabha. However, DMK's position is still not clear, as it was one of the opponents of the Delimitation bill when it came up in the Lok Sabha.



UPPER HAND

Two-third mark in RS appears manageable

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE fresh round of Rajya Sabha polls and resignations of TMC members could strengthen numbers of the BJP-led NDA in the Upper House.

Political sources on Sunday said the NDA, which now commands a strength of 148 members in the Rajya Sabha, is expected to gain three additional seats in the current round of elections through victories of its supported independents in Jharkhand and Mizoram, taking the tally to 151. "Following resignation of three TMC MPs, the NDA is expected to secure three by-election seats, taking its strength to 154. This would leave the alliance just nine seats short of the crucial two-thirds majority mark of 163 in the 245-member House," a source said.

Sources added that the NDA is working on the political arithmetic required to bridge the gap before the commencement of either Monsoon or Winter sessions of Parliament. "If, in the rapidly evolving political situation, additional TMC MPs resign, the NDA could potentially reach or even surpass the decisive figure of 163," a source said.

Such a political development would provide the government with the numerical strength required to pass constitutional amendment Bills in the Rajya Sabha without depending heavily on opposition parties or regional formations. However, the political arithmetic may not remain tilted in favour of the NDA in the months ahead. The alliance could face challenges later this year when 10 Rajya Sabha members from UP retire. Given the SP's improved position in the Assembly, it may secure additional seats in the Upper House, reducing the NDA's advantage.

At present, the INDIA bloc is estimated to have 64 MPs in the Rajya Sabha. Its strength has weakened following the distancing of the DMK with eight MPs and AAP with three. The YSRCP with seven seats, BJD with six, and the MDMK continue could lend support to either side on crucial legislative matters, analysts said.

Sources say the NDA is proceeding cautiously to consolidate numbers in both Houses. A BJP leader said, "Wait and watch. Monsoon Session is likely to set a new direction for development-oriented politics."

Five Uddhav MPs join meet online, claim loyalty

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

IN a bid to keep his flock united amid speculation surrounding Operation Tiger, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday convened a crucial meeting of the party's Lok Sabha MPs. While four out of nine MPs attended the meeting in person, five joined online.

Sources say Operation Tiger has been initiated by Dy CM Eknath Shinde to poach the Shiv Sena (UBT) Lok Sabha members.

Party leader Sanjay Raut said all nine MPs attended the meeting and hoped that would end the speculation and rumours of Operation Tiger. He said no Operation Tiger will happen; in fact, they will carry out some different operations that will surprise everyone. Aditya Thackeray also attended the meet at Matoshree, the residence of Uddhav, Raut said.

The five Shiv Sena MPs who skipped the in-person meeting include Omraje Nimbalkar, Bhausaheb Waghchore, Sanjay Deshmukh, and Nagesh Patil, citing different reasons. However, these five MPs attended Uddhav's called meet online and promised their loyalty to him and the party.

The four MPs who attended the meeting in person are Arvind Sawant, Sanjay Dina Patil, Rajabhau Waje, and Anil Desai.

INSIDER TRACK

Rahul, Kharge crack the whip

At an "urgent" Congress meeting in Delhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge pulled up senior Madhya Pradesh leaders, including Jitu Patwari, over the handling of Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination, which was eventually rejected. The buzz is around claims that details of a pending Hyderabad court complaint against Natarajan travelled from a Telangana Congress leader to a MP counterpart before finding their way into BJP hands. This, amid whispers about Telangana in-charge Natarajan's strained equations with CM Revanth Reddy. Jharkhand RS poll observers, including Bhupesh Baghel, also came under scrutiny for coordination issues with allies. The party is also worried about the Cockroach Janata Party's appeal among younger voters and is working on a more efficient campaign strategy.

Doctor cadre, still waiting

The idea of an All-India Medical Service (AIMS) — a national cadre of doctors on the lines of the IAS and IPS — continues to do the rounds nearly seven years after it first surfaced. The Centre has once again said the proposal is under consideration. That consideration has been fairly long. Even when the idea was first floated, Parliament was told that consultations with states were already underway. According to sources, the proposal is still at the "examination stage", with inputs coming in. Only after that exercise is completed will it move to the DoPT for the next round of consideration. For now, AIMS remains an idea steadily travelling through the government system.

Who gets NITI corner room?

A small guessing game is underway in government circles over who will be NITI Aayog's next full-time CEO. One name that keeps cropping up is that of Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary Anurag Jain. A 1989-batch IAS officer, Jain is currently on extension till August 31, 2026, and is often counted among the Prime Minister's trusted officers. Meanwhile, Nidhi Chhiber of the 1994-batch Chhattisgarh cadre continues to handle the body, holding additional charge as CEO following BVR Subrahmanyam's exit in February. No official word yet on who gets the job. But as often happens in Delhi, the speculation has arrived well before the announcement, and the corridor conversations are already in full swing.

Battle for the students

The NEET paper leak controversy may have left the examination halls, but it is still keeping political war rooms busy. While the Opposition continues its campaign around alleged exam irregularities, BJP strategists are said to be working on an outreach plan of their own. The idea is to connect directly with students and aspirants affected by the episode — on campuses, in schools, and at coaching hubs where doctor-aspirants spend more time on mock tests than on sleep. The message is expected to focus on the government's response, from handing the probe to the CBI to tightening safeguards against a repeat. In other words, both sides are now chasing the same audience: India's stressed, sleep-deprived and politically aware student community.

A little extra France

There seems to be a little extra France in store for PM Modi at the G7 Summit. In a rare move, France has brought India into six different tracks of the summit—an unusually wide seat at the table for a guest country. Modi is set to deliver the keynote address at VivaTech, Europe's biggest technology and startup event, returning to the platform after five years. Interestingly, nothing official yet, but the gupshup around a future VivaTech India edition is getting louder. So, while the summit will have its share of traditional talking points, the bilateral agenda, from diplomacy to digital deals, seems to be doing a fair bit of travelling on its own.

The case of static posts

The spotlight is once again on sensitive postings within the CPWD after a recent audit by the Central Vigilance Commission revealed a striking gap between policy and implementation. Of the 1,641 posts identified for rotation this year, only 39 had been changed by March, leaving 1,602 officials still in place. The CVC has now directed the department to complete the exercise on priority and submit an ATR within two weeks. The rotation policy is designed to prevent officials from remaining too long in sensitive positions where risks of vested interests, misuse of authority and complaints may increase. Vigilance authorities have repeatedly stressed that regular transfers are essential for transparency and reducing opportunities for irregularities in government functioning.

Natarajan snub 'blessing in disguise' for Cong

Meenakshi Natarajan

Those connected with RSS or BJP in some form and the ones who are not comfortable with senior leaders calling the shots in state Congress are the ones in touch with the BJP

Source

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

FOLLOWING the shocking rejection of Congress candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination for the Rajya Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress plans to make the "seat chori" into a major political issue at the national level. However, Congress leaders are wondering if the issue has become a blessing in disguise for it in the BJP-ruled state.

The question on the mind of its prominent leaders is if the Congress has managed to contain much bigger damage, which it would have faced had Natarajan's nomination been accepted. Many leaders across the party hierarchy have said that a significant number of Congress MLAs from different regions in the state were in touch with BJP leaders for the past three to four months. They might well have not just cross-voted for the third BJP candidate Mahesh Kewat on the June 18 election, but could also have switched over to the ruling party later.

BJP leaders too confirmed to this newspaper that up to 20 Congress MLAs out of its total strength of 66 in the 230-members house were in contact with the BJP. "We needed eight to 10 Congress MLAs to cross-vote for our candidate, but the number of those in touch with us ranged between 15 and 20. Such Congress MLAs are from multiple regions, particularly Gwalior-Chambal, Mahakoshal and central Madhya Pradesh, besides some in Malwa-Nimar and Vindhya regions," a senior state BJP leaders and former MLA said. The BJP MLA added that the Congress MLAs were in touch with BJP leaders since February-March, particularly after the outgoing Congress Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh publicly stated that he would not contest.

A corporate professional-turned-Congress leader from central Madhya Pradesh, who is considered close to a former chief minister, echoed similar sentiments. "Yes, the numbers of such MLAs would certainly not have been less than 15. Two former Congress legislators, who are now in the BJP, may well have been the conduit connecting these MLAs to the BJP." The Congress leader added that the threat could have been contained for the time being, but it may resurface, particularly before the 2028 assembly polls.

Sources said that the Congress MLAs which won their seats with narrow margins and expect not to be re-nominated in the 2028 Assembly polls were talking with the BJP.

A senior Congress leader, who hails from the Mahakoshal region, summed up the developments by saying, "Every cloud has a silver lining, and this episode had turned out be a blessing in disguise for us."

TN sailor dies onboard of medical issues in Oman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AN Indian seafarer from Tamil Nadu has died aboard a commercial vessel docked at Duqm Port in Oman, prompting calls for a probe into the circumstances surrounding his medical treatment and evacuation.

The deceased, Nishanth Uirthanathan, 35, was serving as Second Officer aboard MT Celestial. The Indian embassy in Muscat confirmed his death and said that he succumbed to medical complications and that efforts were underway to repatriate his remains to India.

"The embassy is in continuous contact with the ship management company and is coordinating with all concerned stakeholders," the mission said in a post on X, adding that arrangements were being made to send the body home.

According to the embassy, it is working with the vessel's management and local authorities to complete the necessary formalities for repatriation. The incident has drawn attention to the challenges faced by Indian seafarers working on international vessels.

The Forward Seamen's Union of India (FSUI) alleged that Uirthanathan fell ill on June 8 and died around 6 pm on June 11 after attempts to secure medical treatment and emergency evacuation were unsuccessful. The union further claimed that his body remained onboard for nearly two days after his death and that communication services at Duqm Port were disrupted during this period.

Only 1,800 RMP 'doctors' approved under govt scheme, 30K wait for nod

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

ONLY 1,800, or just 0.05% of the Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs), who had applied for the government's much-publicised National Medical Register (NMR), have been issued the certificates in the last two years, as per the NMC's minutes of the meetings.

As many as 30,000 applications for RMPs are pending verification with the State Medical Councils (SMCs) and the National Medical Commission (NMC), according to the January 7, minutes accessed by this paper. At the 17th meeting of the Commission, which was chaired by its Chairman, Dr Abhijat Chandrakant Sheth, members expressed concern about "slow progress" in the registration process and suggested constituting a committee to recommend solutions and expedite the entire process of updating the NMR.

It also mentioned that detailed deliberations are needed regarding NMR, a centralised database of registered medical practitioners in modern medicine in the country.

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

Discussing progress in operationalising NMC's NMR portal, the minutes said that "operational challenges were reported for slow progress due to voluntary enrolment, data inconsistencies between State Medical Registers and NMR, and technical constraints affecting workflow efficiency".

"These challenges are being examined, and measures are being planned to strengthen system functionality," said the December 16, 2025, meeting attended by 33 members. Health Minister JP Nadda had in August 2024 launched the portal. It was mandatory for RMPs, estimated to be 13.5 lakh as per Parliament reply of 2023, to register themselves. But after it failed to take off even after months, the Health Ministry announced in Parliament on August 8, 2025, in a written reply, that the initiative was now voluntary.

NTA releases admit cards for NEET-UG re-exam

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE National Testing Agency (NTA) on Sunday announced that it had released the admit cards for candidates who will be appearing for the medical entrance re-exam on June 21.

It has also asked the students to cross-check the bank details they had submitted for the reimbursement of the fee paid for the May 3 National Eligibility-cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) exam, which was subsequently cancelled. The NTA will reimburse more than ₹300 crore totally to all the aspirants before June 30, said an official.

Over 13.31 lakh (58%) female candidates and 9.47 lakh male candidates will take the re-exam, to be held from 2 pm to 5.15 pm. Persons with disabilities will be given 65 minutes extra than regular candidates. In a fresh statement released late at night, the NTA said 1 lakh candidates have already downloaded their admit cards for the exam. Around 1,00,000 students have downloaded their admit cards by 10.45 pm.

The NTA said that scrutiny of the bank account details received from candidates for reimbursement revealed that some of them have furnished incomplete particulars, including invalid account numbers.

22L TO APPEAR

1. Over 13.31 lakh female and 9.47 lakh male candidates will appear for the re-exam
2. The exam will be held from 2 to 5.15 pm on June 21. Specially abled candidates will get 65 minutes extra

BRIBE CASE

The Rajasthan Anti-Corruption Bureau has arrested a woman sub-inspector and two head constables of Bengaluru Police for accepting a bribe of ₹40,000 at a hotel in Jaipur.

3 KILLED IN ROAD CRASH IN MAHA'S LATUR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	29	Mumbai	33	30
Bhopal	35	26	Panaji	33	27
Jaipur	37	27	Patna	39	29
Amritsar	38	26	Lucknow	38	29
Chennai	36	29	Port Blair	31	28
Kolkata	36	28	Imphal	29	22
Srinagar	26	14	Chandigarh	36	26

CID grills Abhishek for second time in signature forgery case

TMC legislator Kunal Ghosh, Mamata nephew made to sit face-to-face during questioning

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

THE West Bengal CID on Sunday made TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee and MLA Kunal Ghosh to sit face to face and grilled them for about four hours since 3 pm in connection with its ongoing probe into the alleged forgery of MLAs' signatures on documents related to the appointment of Leader of Opposition in the Assembly.

Abhishek, nephew of the TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, faced more trouble as the ED, which is probing the alleged primary teachers' recruitment scam in the state, issued a notice asking the MP to appear before it on Monday. It's not yet confirmed whether he will appear at ED's Salt Lake CGO complex office. The CID also issued another notice to Abhishek asking him to appear before it connection with his alleged provocative speech during a poll rally.

The MP had appeared the CID on June 11 and faced interrogation linked to the signature forgery case for about six hours.

Kunal appeared before the CID's special investigation team (SIT) headed by ADG Supratim Sarkar around 3 pm, three hours after Abhishek reached Bhabani Bhaban around noon. Kunal left the CID office around 7 pm, but Abhishek left the spot around 8.30 pm and went to Mamata's house to attend a meeting. After coming out of Bhabani Bhaban, Kunal told reporters, "The investigating officials made both Abhishek and me to sit face to face and questioned us. I have cooperated with them."

With the Calcutta High Court's directive, Abhishek had appeared before the CID on June 11 to face questions in the signature forgery case. The CID officials had wanted to know details about the letter, armed with the resolution signed by the TMC MLAs, Abhishek had written to Assembly Speaker Rathindranath Bose, proposing Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of Opposition.

Earlier, Abhishek had skipped three previous appearance notices served by the CID, citing illness and his filing of a challenge petition before the High Court. The HC granted interim protection from coercive action like arrest to Abhishek in connection with the forgery case but directed him to appear before the CID. The court will hear the case again after two weeks.

With the directive of Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, the SIT was formed to probe the alleged signature forgery case.

The SIT had interrogated several MLAs who have reportedly admitted that their signatures were affixed to the resolution copy though they were absent in the meeting at Kalighat residence of Mamata.

The pressure on the TMC leader has continued to mount over the past few days. The CID had conducted search separately at TMC office at Mamata's Harish Chatterjee Street residence and Abhishek's Camac Street office last week.

The party is grappling with an unprecedented internal crisis after it suffered a crushing defeat to the BJP in the assembly elections.

Abhishek arrives to appear before the CID at Bhabani Bhawan in Kolkata | PTI

ED summons TMC leader in teachers' hiring scam

The ED, which is probing the alleged primary teachers' recruitment scam, served a notice to Abhishek to appear before it on Monday. It's not yet confirmed whether he will appear at ED's Salt Lake CGO complex office. The CID has also issued a notice to Abhishek asking him to appear before it connection with a 'provocative' speech he gave.

Rahul to discuss NEET paper leak, youth issues with students at Kota hub

Venue to be decided

The Congress team in Kota is engaged in preparing for the event. However, a final decision regarding the venue has not been reached.

Party sway in region a factor

Political analysts are of the opinion that Rajasthan was chosen for this national campaign mainly because the party is considered strong there.

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE Congress will launch a nationwide movement on June 17 from Kota, renowned as the country's "coaching capital," over issues like paper leaks, examination irregularities, unemployment and other issues affecting the youth.

Rahul Gandhi, the LoP in the Lok Sabha, will engage in a direct dialogue with students and aspirants preparing for competitive exams on paper leaks and major youth-related issues.

The choice of Kota in Rajasthan is significant, as it not only attracts thousands of students from across the country but also is represented in the Lok Sabha by Speaker Om Birla. The Congress is keen to corner the BJP in what is being seen as a major bastion for the saffron party and the RSS. Kota district Congress president Rakhi Gautam and Kota Rural Congress president Bhanu Pratap Singh stated that the decision was made to launch this nationwide campaign from Kota. Through this initiative, students across the nation will be connected, and their issues will be raised at the national level.

Ahead of Rahul's proposed visit, continuous contact is being maintained with students and coaching institutes regarding the student conference. Information about his interactive session is being disseminated via social media.

At the Kota event, Rahul will discuss with students various topics related to education and employment, including the repeated paper leak scandals, the NEET exam controversy, and key issues concerning the CBSE. The entire Congress team in Kota is actively engaged in preparing for the event. However, a final decision regarding the venue has not yet been reached.

Analysts believe that Rajasthan was chosen for this national campaign because the party is considered organisationally strong there.

KOLKATA DIARY

SUBHENDU MAITI

Our correspondent in West Bengal

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'₹300 cr in unauthorised transport charges'

Retail liquor traders in Bengal have alleged that around ₹300 crore was collected from them between 2022 and 2025 as transportation charges, even though the state's distributor-depot supply system puts the onus of the payment on distributors. The Society for the Welfare of West Bengal Foreign Liquor Licensees said the distributor-depot system introduced by the state government mandates that distributors would supply liquor to retailers' godowns at their own expense. However, retailers were being made to pay ₹10-13 per case as transportation charges for beer supplies, the letter to the Excise Commissioner stated.

Classes to resume after forces vacate camps

More than a month has passed since the assembly elections and the announcement of their result, yet the central forces have not vacated their camps set up in several educational institutions. The state education department has now decided to resume classes in several schools after the withdrawal of the camps. A notification has been issued to the district administrations to resume classes in these academic institutions. Sources said that classes have been suspended in these schools for over 40 days since 4 May when the results of elections in 294 assembly constituencies in the state were announced.

Cong back in control of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation

With a change of guard in Bengal, the Congress got back control of the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Foundation located at Sahapur in the New Alipore area under Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) ward 81. The foundation is an NGO established on June 21, 1991, to promote the vision and legacy of the late PM Rajiv Gandhi. Earlier, the grand old party used to control the foundation, but the Trinamool Congress, after forming its government in the state in 2011, took over its administrative functioning. Trinamool suffered a disastrous defeat to the BJP in the elections in the state, the results for which were announced on May 4.

Punjab youth stabbed to death in Southall, UK

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A 26-year-old Indian-origin man was stabbed to death in Southall, West London, the Metropolitan Police said on Saturday. The victim has been identified as Gurbhej Singh, originally from Punjab. A second man in his 30s was also found injured in the incident. He was taken to hospital and later discharged.

The Metropolitan Police have started a murder investigation. It said officers were called by the London Ambulance Service following reports of a stabbing near the junction with Dormers Wells Lane. "Officers attended with paramedics and two men were found to have been injured. Despite the efforts of medical staff, Singh who had suffered a knife wound was pronounced dead at the scene. The second man, in his 30s, was treated at hospital and later discharged,'' a police statement said. It added that seven men were held at the scene on suspicion of murder. Six have been released.

Singh, who hailed from Punjab's Tarn Taran district had moved to the UK in 2022 after completing his schooling. A fundraising campaign has been launched to support his family.

C'garh CM's home district to appear on railway map, 291-km special line okayed

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

IN a leap toward infrastructure expansion, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's home district, Jashpur, is set to shed its status as one of the few remaining rail-disconnected zones in India. The Ministry of Railways has officially notified theDharamjaigarh–Pathalgaon–Lohardaga new rail line as a special railway project, formally realising the decades-old dream of local residents.

With this special railway project, the path has been cleared for connecting Jashpur to the railway network for the first time. It is expected to lay the foundation for the social, economic, and industrial development of the entire region.

The ambitious railway corridor, spanning approximately 291 kilometres, will originate from Dharamjaigarh in Raigarh district, pass through Pathalgaon in Jashpur and extend to Lohardaga in Jharkhand state. Once completed, the project will directly connect Jashpur to the national railway network. According to the notification published in the Gazette of India by the Ministry of Railways, the project has been notified under the provisions of the Railways Act, 1989, in the public interest and for national infrastructure development.

Despite being rich in natural resources and development potential, Jashpur district has remained disconnected from the railway network until now. The new railway line will improve connectivity, offering residents safer transportation options.

TRAVEL BOOST

1. Move expected to boost tourism in Jashpur
2. Operation of rail project to create thousands of jobs
3. Region on track to attract more in investments
4. Residents will get safer transportation options

Candidates miss exam due to late train, 6 held for vandalism

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

SIX individuals have been arrested and 600 unidentified people made accused in an FIR registered in connection with stone pelting and vandalism at Patliputra railway station in Patna following late arrival of special trains for candidates appearing at Bihar Police Prohibition Constable exam.

Police had to open fire in the air to disperse the protesters who squatted on the railway tracks, disrupted railway traffic and indulged in vandalism.

Though no injuries were reported in the police firing, Jitendra Rana, IG, Patna range, and some other police personnel, received minor injuries in stone pelting. The trouble started around 11.45 PM on Saturday when a large number of candidates assembled at Patliputra railway station to board the special trains for constable recruitment examination. When some candidates failed to board the train due to over-crowding, they halted the train and demanded exam cancellation, saying they would not reach examination centres on time.

A female student from Barh in Patna district said that several students failed to board the special train due to overcrowding. They later prevented the train from moving forward. "This led to a chaos at the railway station," she added.

As protesters ransacked the railway station, it prompted police to fire in the open to quell the stone pelting mob. Several officials including Jitendra Rana sustained minor injuries from stones pelted by protesters, who were adamant on their demand. Police lobbed tear gas shells and conducted a baton charge to disperse the crowd. Later, the police, along with personnel from the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police, cleared the tracks.

"Around 200–250 students were preventing a train from departing. When police and railway security personnel tried to persuade them to move, some individuals began pelting stones. The necessary action was taken," IG Rana said.

Row over failure to board train due to overcrowding

The trouble started around 11.45 PM on Saturday when a large number of candidates assembled at Patliputra railway station to board the special trains for constable recruitment examination. When some candidates failed to board the train due to over-crowding, they halted the train. Protesters also ransacked the station and pelted stones.

'SABKA SAATH, SABKA VIKAS' DRIVES YOGI'S MADRASA OVERHAUL

SHEHZAD POONAWALLA
National Spokesperson, BJP

VIJETA RATTANI
Development and sustainability expert

AS their core political strategy, the Opposition Parties such as the Congress, Samajwadi Party, TMC, etc., have engaged with the Muslim community around emotional identity politics, with no genuine concern for their real progress, reducing them to a mere vote bank.

An example in this case is the madrasa education system in Uttar Pradesh. Trapped in rigid myopic theology and producing generations of students ill-equipped for modern society, no serious effort was ever undertaken by past regimes to reform or equip Muslim boys and girls with contemporary education and skills.

In contrast, the BJP's development centric vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" is committed to uplifting the poor and vulnerable sections, irrespective of religion, caste, or creed. Implementing this vision, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath undertook the sensitive challenge of modernising the madrasa education system through reforms focused on ensuring transparency, quality, and employability, thereby enabling Muslim students to participate meaningfully in the state's progress.

From vote-bank to real progress

Opposition parties have pursued appeasement and rigid identity politics in their approach towards Muslims, while sidelining substantive concerns like education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, and employment. Instead of addressing these issues, they have turned to invoking emotional identity debates around the topics of Uniform Civil Code, triple talaq, and the Shah Bano case. In fact, opposition parties' rule has always been marked by riots and unrest, claiming Muslim lives, such as in Hashimpura, Meerut, Bhagalpur, etc (under Congress rule), exposing the hollowness of their politics. In Uttar Pradesh too, successive regimes before 2017 employed this approach of keeping Muslims uneducated, isolated and confined within narrow traditions and rigid mindsets. In contrast, BJP ruled states have shown better outcomes for Muslim upliftment, whether addressing the encephalitis crisis through improved hygiene and living standards in UP, raising economic standards for Gujarati Muslims compared to Bengali Muslims, or providing security to all, which helps explain the difference between identity driven appeasement politics and development centred governance.

The madrasa education system became one of the starkest symbols of deliberate neglect of the appeasement ecosystem. Over 13,300 recognised institutions with over 12 lakh students are trapped in rigid theology, inadequate infrastructure, opaque teacher appointments, outdated curricula, often taught with non civic values and separatist tendencies rather than integration with mainstream society. The Supreme Court's rejection of Kamil and Fazil degrees and reports of several madrasas functioning only on paper underscored systemic flaws and irregularities.

In the political arena, community reform in education is seldom treated as a pressing priority. However, in line with the Modi government's development agenda, rooted in "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" and the vision of "Quran in one hand and computer in the other", Yogi Adityanath's administration has moved with courage and determination in overhauling the madrasa education system. His government has mandated alignment with NCERT and SCERT and made subjects including Mathematics, Science, English, and Hindi compulsory under the New Education Policy 2020. The Madrasa Modernisation Scheme, which had been largely dormant until 2017, is now operational, and thousands of teachers have been trained under it. Accountability is enforced through audits, scrutiny of foreign funding, and digitalisation of records and processes. The launch of the Madrasa Portal in 2017 digitalised exams, certification and records, while proposed amendments to the 2004 Act aim to integrate madrasas with national standards under rigorous oversight.

Through sincere efforts to modernise the Madrasa system, Yogi Adityanath's government also seeks to embed constitutional values, broaden horizons, integrate with the mainstream, and dismantle the shackles of orthodoxy that have long plagued Muslim society in UP. Crucially, these reforms preserve the Islamic core of the education system, reflecting Yogi Adityanath's honesty and genuine statesmanship.

Data celebrates achievements

Yogi Adityanath's overhaul represents balanced and effective progress, yielding impressive results. More than 18,000 staff within government-aided madrasas now receive salaries under the Seventh Pay Commission, while infrastructure has been upgraded for over 7,000 madrasas. Furthermore, 8,500 unrecognised institutions have been identified through surveys.

Nearly 12.35 lakh students now have access to computer labs, modern subjects and future-ready skills. In 2026, more than 80,000 candidates appeared for the munshi/maulvi (secondary) and alim (senior secondary) examinations, an 18% increase from the previous year. While the overall pass percentage stood at a remarkable 88.26 percent, girls outperformed with a 94.30 percent pass rate, demonstrating how the reforms are especially empowering Muslim girls. CM Yogi has honoured the top rank holders in 2026 exams, recognising merit and motivating others into excellence too.

Political opposition to the reforms aims to maintain the pre-2017 status quo of neglect. On the other hand, Yogi Adityanath is making sincere progress across UP. He has dealt with a sensitive challenge with strategic acumen, showcasing his determination to put the nation first and inclusive development.

(Views are personal)

2,745 foreigners
repatriated in a week in South Africa after President vowed action against illegal immigration

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	20	SNY	Los Angeles	27	18	SNY
Colombo	29	27	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	32	28	SNY	Moscow	28	16	SNY
Dubai	34	31	SNY	New York	30	22	SNY
Houston	33	27	TDS	Singapore	31	28	TDS
Istanbul	28	20	SNY	Toronto	26	19	SNY
London	23	13	SNY	Washington	31	21	SNY

Israel's attacks on Beirut complicate peace efforts

Iran hits out at US, says its ally Israel's attacks on Lebanon have made peace talks pointless, demands ceasefire as part of pact

BEIRUT

ISRAEL struck Beirut's southern suburbs on Sunday, killing three people, in response to what it said was Hezbollah fire at northern Israel, while its military also carried out broader strikes on southern Lebanon. The latest escalation came amid expectations that a deal between the United States and Iran to end the West Asia war could be imminent, but Iranian chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said there was "no point" in continuing peace talks with Washington after the strike.

Tehran insists a ceasefire in Lebanon must be part of any deal. Israel and Hezbollah have been at war since March 2 when the Iran-backed group fired rockets at Israel to avenge the killing of Iran's supreme leader in US-Israeli strikes days earlier. Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) said a strike hit an apartment in the Ghobeiry neighbourhood of Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold known as Dahiyeh.

WAR WATCH

An AFP correspondent saw smoke and dust rising near a heavily damaged apartment as debris covered the street and people searched for survivors, with panic in the area after the strike along a busy road filled with shops. Lebanon's civil defence agency reported three dead and six wounded.

Israeli officials including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have warned that Israel would strike south Beirut if the Iran-backed Hezbollah group targets northern Israeli communities, a position they say has the backing of Washington. The Israeli military earlier Sunday said three suspected Hezbollah drones struck northern Israel in separate incidents, causing no casualties.

Hezbollah on Sunday claimed several attacks on Israeli troops who have invaded south Lebanon, but none on north Israel. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei had said the day before that the deal would not be signed Sunday, but added: "The possibility of this happening in the coming days cannot be ruled out."

People look for survivors at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a building in Beirut's southern suburbs | AFP

A delegation from fellow mediator Qatar arrived in Tehran on Sunday "to help facilitate the finalisation of the agreement", a diplomat with knowledge of the situation told AFP.

The warring parties have released conflicting information about the contents of the deal, as each seeks to show it emerged from the war with the upper hand. Tehran has insisted it will maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz, but the US has repeatedly said this would be unacceptable.Since imposing its blockade on the strait -- which has thrown global markets into turmoil -- Iran has demanded vessels obtain permission from its armed forces before transiting the waterway, and has established a new body to oversee it and collect tolls. *AFP*

Switzerland rejects divisive bid to cap population at 10M

BERN

THE Swiss appeared on Sunday to have voted down a divisive anti-immigration proposal to cap the country's population, early projections showed. Shortly after polls closed at noon, initial projections from the gfs.bern institute indicated around 55 per cent opposition to the initiative, which had sparked warnings of "chaos" and devastating impacts for the Swiss economy and European Union relations.

"We are very relieved and happy. This is an important result for our country and for our relations with the EU," Monika Ruhl, director of the employers' organisation economiesuisse, told public broadcaster RTS. Opinion polls had suggested that the vote, held under Switzerland's direct democracy system, would be tight. Tensions have been running particularly high over the "No to a Switzerland with 10 million!" initiative, put forward by the hard-right Swiss People's Party (SVP).

That proposal wanted measures to stop the wealthy Alpine nation's population -- currently 9.1 million -- going above 10 million before 2050.

In a country where foreigners make up more than a quarter of the population, the proposal, if accepted, would slam the brakes on immigration. "There has to be a limit," retiree Gilles Hirt told AFP at a polling station in Bern Sunday morning, comparing the situation in Switzerland to a ship. "If it is designed for 150 people and you put 250 onboard, it becomes too small. If you put 350 onboard, it will sink," he said.The SVP, Switzerland's largest party, insisted drastic measures were needed, blaming "mass immigration" for a host of problems, from housing shortages and rising rents to overcrowded trains and traffic jams.

SVP parliamentarian Celine Amaudruz told RTS she was "disappointed" by the projected results of Sunday's vote, insisting that Switzerland was facing "colossal challenges" from immigration. Before the vote, SVP parliamentarian Yvan Pahud highlighted to AFP that "Switzerland is a small country that cannot be expanded". *AFP*

A citizen casts her ballot at a polling station in Bern, as Swiss vote on a divisive anti-immigration proposal to cap the country's population and another referendum on restricting access to conscientious objection to military service | AFP

Palestinian death toll in Gaza tops 73,000 despite ceasefire

DEIR AL-BALAH

THE Palestinian death toll from the Israel-Hamas war has surpassed 73,000, Gaza's Health Ministry said on Sunday, as Israeli military operations continued despite a stalled and fragile ceasefire in place since October.

Israel says it is targeting Hamas and other militants who pose a threat, and in response to ceasefire violations, including occasional attacks.

Nearly 1,000 people have been killed in Gaza since the start of the ceasefire, according to the health ministry. Five Israeli soldiers have been killed since the truce. The number of deaths since the beginning of the war is now 73,001, according to the health ministry's tally. Over 173,200 people have been wounded since the start of the war on October 7, 2023, following the Hamas-led attack into Israel. That attack killed some 1,200 people and took 251 others hostage.

The health ministry, part of the Hamas-led government, is staffed by medical professionals and maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by United Nations agencies and independent experts. It does not distinguish between civilians and militants but says women and children make up around half of all fatalities.

Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas because the militants operate in densely populated areas. The US-brokered ceasefire deal reached in October ended full-scale military operations and led to the return of all the remaining hostages. But the deal has stalled as Hamas refuses to disarm and Israeli troops push deeper into Gaza, with both sides accusing each other of violations while saying the pact remains in effect. A deadlock over disarming Hamas has held up reconstruction, troop withdrawals and plans for a new Palestinian government, mediator Nickolay Mladenov said. *AP*

Trump taps personal lawyer for top Manhattan prosecutor post

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump said on Saturday that he will appoint one of his personal lawyers to serve as the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan, filling a pending vacancy after Trump tapped the man currently in the job to be director of national intelligence.

James M McDonald, a former federal prosecutor in the office he had been picked to run, served as a financial regulator during Trump's first term and worked in the White House counsel's office in President George W. Bush's administration.

A partner at the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell, McDonald is part of the legal team handling Trump's pending appeal of felony convictions in New York related to hush money payments to adult film actor Stormy Daniels as the Republican ran for president in 2016. Trump said on Saturday he would name McDonald to the role of US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, one of the most influential positions in the Justice Department. He would replace Jay Clayton, whom Trump put forward this week as his pick for the director of national intelligence.

McDonald's perch as US attorney would give him oversight of arguably the most prestigious of the Justice Department's prosecution offices, with a vast portfolio ranging from terrorism and espionage cases to security fraud and public corruption.

McDonald was also part of the legal team that last month secured a favorable outcome for Indian billionaire Gautam Adani when the Trump administration Justice Department dropped a fraud and conspiracy case that had been brought under the Biden administration. He served as a financial regulator under Trump and as a White House counsel under Bush. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA

ENERGY SAVING DRIVE LOWERS CARBON OUTPUT

The one-hour energy saving and carbon emission reduction initiative in Jakarta on the commemoration of World Environment Day on Saturday (June 13) was able to reduce carbon emissions by 60.14 tons of CO2e. "The 60-minute lights-off campaign is not just a symbol. It is a reminder that simple actions can bring a real impact on environmental sustainability," Head of the Jakarta Environmental Agency, Dudi Gardesi, said on Sunday. He noted that the initiative aims to instill a culture of energy conservation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

HEAVY RAIN WARNING IN PLACE

The Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) has issued a warning forecasting thunderstorms, heavy rain and strong winds across almost all states and Kuala Lumpur until 9pm Sunday. MetMalaysia said adverse weather conditions are expected in Perlis, Penang, Perak and Kuala Lumpur.

SINGAPORE

STUDY LINKS GUT HEALTH TO FATTY LIVER

Scientists have found a protein in the gut that acts like a "middleman", connecting your lunch, your gut bacteria and your liver health. Straits Times reported. By examining stool samples, the team, led by Nanyang Technological University, found that people with higher levels of this protein tend to develop fatty liver disease later in life. The study focused on angiopoietin-like 4, a protein found in the gut that can cause a leaky gut, a condition in which the gut becomes overly porous.This allows gut bacteria to travel directly to the liver, where it triggers inflammation.

EXPRESS READ

Six killed in Rio helicopter collision

RIO DE JANEIRO: At least six people were killed on Sunday when two helicopters collided mid-air and crashed into the parking lot of an electric car dealership in western Rio de Janeiro, Brazilian firefighters said. The crash sparked a blaze that engulfed at least 20 vehicles. All six victims were crew members aboard the aircraft. Images showed thick black smoke rising from the site in the suburb of Recreio dos Bandeirantes, where several cars were seen engulfed in flames.

UK, Japan seal major economic partnership

LONDON: Britain and Japan on Sunday signed a broad economic and technology partnership expected to generate more than $24 billion in investment during Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to London. More than 10 agreements were signed, including a £9-billion offshore wind project. The two sides also launched a tech partnership covering AI and semiconductors and reaffirmed cooperation on the next-generation Global Combat Air Programme fighter jet.

Mass protests sweep Geneva ahead of G7 gathering

GENEVA

THOUSANDS of protesters thronged the streets of Geneva Sunday ahead of the G7 summit in Evian in neighbouring France, with police omnipresent amid fears of a repeat of the violence seen at a similar summit in 2003.

Waving banners with messages like "No to the G7 and all imperialist alliances!" and "Abort the G7", the protesters gathered in a park on the shores of Lake Geneva. They then made their way through a barricaded city that seemed to be bracing for an invasion, as helicopters hovered above.

Under a burning sun, they set off shortly after 3.30pm, chanting slogans with a range of messages, supporting Palestinians, climate action, feminism and anti-capitalist activism. Police put the number of protesters at up to 7,000 at the start of the procession, but by 4:30 pm, AFP journalists estimated the number was closer to 15,000. "I'm here because I'm not happy that this group of heads of state is meeting here to make decisions that affect all of us," Michel, a 69-year-old Swiss retiree waving a Palestinian flag, told AFP. The coalition, made up of around 200 associations, organisations and unions, called for an "internationalist response" to the policies promoted by the Group of Seven leaders, who kick off their three-day annual gathering on Monday.

A burning Tesla car during a rally of a "No-G7" coalition of over 60 associations, unions and left-wing groups "against fascism and imperialism", a day ahead of the summit's start, in Geneva | AFP

The G7 summit will be one of the first major international gatherings since the United States and Israel launched a war against Iran in late February, upending the West Asia and widening transatlantic tensions. The G7 brings together the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, along with invited leaders from several other countries, including Brazil and India. *AFP*

British forces board Russian shadow fleet vessel in 1st Channel operation

LONDON

BRITISH forces on Sunday intercepted a sanctioned oil tanker belonging to Russia's shadow fleet in the English Channel, the defence ministry said.

The six-hour operation in the early hours was supported by aircraft, including Chinook helicopters, and navy vessels such as the frigate HMS Sutherland. "In the first UK-led operation of its kind, the vessel SMYRTOS was boarded by Royal Marine Commandos and specially trained law enforcement officers from the National Crime Agency, despite Russia's best efforts to evade sanctions and continue fuelling its barbaric war with Ukraine," the ministry statement said.

The vessel will now be moved to an anchorage off the south coast of England and monitored, it added. "Russia relies on its shadow fleet to fund their conflict in Ukraine and our interdiction delivers a blow to Putin's illegal war," said defence minister Dan Jarvis.

He said the operation was carried out in "close coordination with the French".

Disrupting the shadow fleet was "directly bearing down on the resources sustaining Russia's aggression in Ukraine and reducing its capacity to threaten security across Europe and beyond", he added. The UK has sanctioned hundreds of vessels suspected of being part of the shadow fleet used by Russia to bypass Western embargoes since the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The ships — usually ageing tankers with dubious ownership — are banned from accessing UK ports and services. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the operation delivered "yet another blow to Russia and reminds those fuelling Putin's war in Ukraine that they cannot hide".

42 Commando of the UK Commando force conducting maritime interdiction operations on the CMR Smyrtos sailing under a false Cameroonian flag, in the English Channel off the coast of the United Kingdom | AFP

In March, the government announced that British forces would be able to board and seize shadow fleet vessels passing through its waters. The announcement followed the easing of restrictions by Washington on Russian oil to soften prices sent soaring by the US-Israel war against Iran. France, Belgium, Finland and other European countries have also recently seized sanction-busting vessels believed to belong to the so-called shadow fleet. *AFP*

Taiwan invites Chinese nat'ls to share intel; opens secure channel

TAIPEI

TAIWAN's intelligence agency said on Sunday it is establishing an information-reporting channel for Chinese nationals to offer tips securely, at a time when tensions between Beijing and the self-ruled island remain elevated.

In a statement, Taiwan's National Security Bureau said they are launching a webpage that will act as a secure channel for Chinese nationals to provide intelligence-related information, saying that an increasing number of people have recently approached relevant agencies in Taiwan wishing to "provide various types of information."

"In recent years, China's economy has faced mounting difficulties, while political control has remained tight," the statement said. "Coupled with a growing range of social and livelihood-related problems, these conditions have fueled public discontent." Taiwan officials said the move was made in reference to practices adopted by intelligence agencies in the US, the UK and Israel. Last year, the CIA released Mandarin-language videos on social media inviting disgruntled Chinese officials to contact them and share information. *AP*

2.5% global economic growth the World Bank has forecast for 2026, warning that the conflict in the Middle East has triggered a fresh shock to by disrupting energy markets, fuelling inflation

Gold ETF curb: Should retail investors worry?

Existing investors can continue to hold, redeem and invest in gold funds, only investments above ₹25 cr are impacted

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

A series of restrictions imposed by leading mutual fund houses on investments in gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and gold fund-of-funds (FoFs) has raised questions among retail investors about whether access to gold-backed investment products is becoming limited.

Existing investors can continue to hold, redeem and invest in gold funds. It is large lump sum investments above ₹25 crore that are impacted.

Five major asset management companies (AMCs) — HDFC Mutual Fund, ICICI Prudential MF, Nippon India MF, Tata MF and Axis MF — have imposed curbs on fresh inflows into their gold ETF schemes. While the exact restrictions vary, most target either very large institutional subscriptions or lump-sum investments into gold FoFs.

What exactly has been restricted?

Restrictions vary across fund houses, but they broadly fall into two categories — curbs on large institutional subscriptions into gold ETFs and limits on lump-sum investments into FoFs. HDFC Mutual Fund has stopped accepting direct subscriptions of ₹25 crore or more into its HDFC Gold ETF from June 8. It has also capped lumpsum purchases and switch-ins into the HDFC Gold ETF Fund of Fund at ₹10 lakh per PAN per calendar month. Similarly, ICICI Prudential MF has restricted direct subscriptions exceeding ₹25 crore in its Gold ETF scheme from June 5.

Nippon India MF has barred large investors from making subscriptions of over ₹25 crore into Nippon India ETF Gold

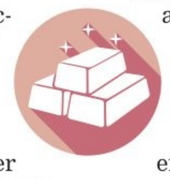
BeES from June 8. It has also imposed ₹10 lakh monthly cap per PAN on lump-sum investments and switch-ins into Nippon India Gold Savings Fund.

Tata MF has introduced comparable curbs. Direct subscriptions of ₹25 crore or more into Tata Gold ETF will not be accepted from June 8, though market makers and authorised participants have been exempted to ensure liquidity in the ETF. In its Tata Gold ETF Fund of Fund, lump-sum purchases and switch-ins have been capped at ₹10 lakh per PAN per month.

Axis MF has announced curbs on large subscriptions into its gold ETF offerings.

Why MFs doing this?

The curbs are not a reflection of concerns over gold itself. Rather, they indicate that demand for gold investments has surged sharply.



Gold has delivered over 17% returns in India this year, supported by geopolitical tensions, central bank buying, concerns over global growth and market volatility. As investors sought safe-haven assets, assets under management of gold ETFs tripled in FY26.

Industry experts say gold ETFs need exposure backed by gold instruments. When inflows become too large in a short period, fund houses may face operational challenges in deploying money efficiently while maintaining accuracy.

The curbs come amid the government's focus on curbing non-essential imports. pm Modi recently urged Indians to avoid buying gold for a year, arguing that lower gold imports would help conserve foreign exchange and strengthen the economy.

What does this mean for retail investors?

For most retail investors, the impact will be limited. The curbs do not apply to existing holdings. Investors can continue to redeem their investments, switch out of schemes and operate Systematic Withdrawal Plans (SWPs) as usual.

IN CONVERSATION

ARAVIND SANKA
Co-founder, Rapido

'Well capitalised, so current focus is on mobility mkt growth'

AFTER raising $240 million in fresh capital, Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited (Rapido) plans to continue its aggressive expansion plans and enter new categories of the mobility market. The Bengaluru-headquartered app-based ride-hailing company, which competes with the global mobility giant Uber and Ola Consumer, is confident of outpacing industry growth and has no immediate plans to go public. In an interaction with TNIE's **Arshad Khan**, **Aravind Sanka**, co-founder, Rapido, said that Rapido is well capitalised and they are not chasing any timeline to launch an initial public offering (IPO). Sanka also shared his view on growth-driving factors, competition from Uber and the expansion of Rapido's food delivery business. **Edited Excerpts**:

Rapido has plans to maintain up to 100% year-on-year growth for the next couple of years. How do you plan to maintain this kind of growth without diluting service quality or driver economics?

There are two things that will drive growth at Rapido. One is the city expansion. If you look 18 months or two years back, the number of cities we are present in was less than a hundred. Majorly, the top cities and top state capitals used to be our market. Now we are in 400 cities, and there are still a lot of cities where there is no ride-sharing app, and there is no Rapido. We are not covering the entire country.

The second thing is category branches. For example, we were only bikes for sevenyears, and then we launched auto, and then we launched cab. In recent times, we launched e-rikshas, parcel delivery and metro ticketing services. The idea now is to go after the ways people commute.

We are growing faster than the competitors in the last three years, and the beauty is that all the three main categories - bike, auto and cabs - are growing actually equally. When we said we are growing at 100%, all three categories are growing in that range

It is reported that you plan to launch an IPO by the end of this year. Are you committed to this timeline?

For the IPO, we're not chasing a timeline. We're well capitalised today, so our current focus is on penetrating the mobility market. If and when we need additional capital, we'll evaluate going public. For now, we're doubling down on growth.

Rapid at present has about 3 million captains, and you serve millions of passengers every day. So, what is the headroom for growth?

While this number seems really big, in the grand scheme of the country, it is pretty small. On a monthly basis, all the platforms together, fewer than 50 million people are travelling.

This means when compared with the Indian population, 1.4 billion, less than 4% population is travelling every month. So, headroom for growth is left to our imagination. Mobility is such a need for everyone who's coming out of the house, as the number of people owning a vehicle is pretty less in India.

How do you see competition with Uber, given Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi recently said that Rapido is their rival? At present, what is your market share across categories?

I can call it acknowledging the competition by Uber, but as I said, we are outpacing the industry growth. We are growing faster than the competitors in the last 3 years, and the beauty is that all the 3 main categories - bike, auto and cabs - are growing actually equally. When we said we are growing at 100%, all three categories are growing in that range. Affordability and the captain (driver) first approach are our advantages.

A lot of our things that we do is to keep the captains at the centre. The prime example is the business model change that we brought in 2 years back, where we decided not to charge commission but a flat fee per day. All categories taken together, we are larger than the combined player numbers 2 and 3. I think that we are north of 50% when all the categories are put together.

MONEY-WISE

SIP TOP-UPS FOR WEALTH CREATION

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

SIP TOP-UP ILLUSTRATION

Option 1 : Only SIP

- SIP **₹10k** p.m.
- Corpus after **15** years @ **12%** CAGR : **₹47.5 Lakh**

Option 2 : SIP + TOP-UP

- SIP **₹10k** p.m.
- Top Up **₹2k** p.m.(further increased yearly too by additional **2k** p.m.)
- Corpus after **15** years @ **12%** CAGR : **₹95 Lakh**

IN a discussion with a young family member, I was asked about the lesser known huge impact of SIP top-ups on creation of wealth through compounding. As a response, I narrated an experience I had post addressing a seminar some years ago about which I had written in the past.

For the record, a SIP Top-Up is a facility wherein an investor who has enrolled for SIP has an option to increase the amount of their SIP instalment by a fixed amount or percentage at predefined intervals. This can be linked to future income and growth. Investors can specify the upper limit to cap the Top-Up either in terms of the amount or the month and year. Topping-Up the SIP will stop when the defined cap is reached.

A top-up facility is an efficient way to keep your savings growing in line with your income. Using a Top-Up facility, an investor can increase their monthly contribution in an ongoing SIP. While most MF houses refer to itas Top-Up, some others call it SIP Booster or SIP Step-Up facility. Most prominent fund houses offer this facility to investors.

Some of the key advantages of a Top-Up SIP include its ability to keep your savings keep pace with the rise in inflation. Though this sounds innocuous, it plays a vital role in ensuring one is not left with idle funds that do not work towards beating the inflation rate.

Top-Ups provide operational convenience as there is no need to submit a fresh ECS Bank Debit Mandate in order to Top-up existing SIPs. At the same time, one should note here that once they opt for the SIP Top-Up facility no modification can be made to the same. The investor will have to cancel the current SIP and enrol for a new one.

SIP Top-Ups can help investors reach their financial goals faster as they incrementally accumulate towards the goal target amount sooner than the originally projected time frame. Again, most salaried individuals expect a yearly salary hike and may get bonuses on annual basis. A SIP Top-Up option raises the investment of one's Savings, alongside Salary growth.

Post discussion, that young family member who uses several wealth apps on the phone worked out the number impact that a SIP Top-Up could have on a satisfactorily performing MF scheme over a long time frame. . Of course, the key lies in selecting a MF scheme that will perform over a 15 year time frame. There is no dearth of such schemes in the Indian mutual fund universe but to select them, one would do well to seek professional advice.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY BEING A TRAVELLER MATTERS IN INVESTING

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

TRAVEL is at the top of most young people's agendas. Those with means can control their experience. For most, travel budgets define moments of happiness. While some people focus on the destination, others take joy in the journey. When you think of yourself as a tourist, you focus more on the destination and things you would do once you get there. However, if you are a traveller, you will relish the whole journey. For you, travel is a state of mind rather than just a destination. It involves patience and tolerance.

If we put that analogy to the world of investing, you need the temperament of a traveller, not that of a tourist. You need to take an active role in the investment journey and stay patient throughout. If that means learning new skills or concepts every day, so be it.

Investing is not meant for instant gratification. It requires you to absorb the surroundings and wait. There will be times when your temperament is tested. Legendary American investor Warren Buffett describes investing as the transfer of wealth from the impatient to the patient. Markets tend to penalise the tourists and reward the travellers.

The state of financial markets today is likely to test your investing temperament. Indian shares and the rupee are among the worst performers globally. The persistent uncertainty in West Asia is making all energy and gold imports to India expensive. Mutual funds are not letting you buy gold through exchange-traded funds following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to the public. The government has also made gold imports expensive. That means buying physical gold is also an expensive proposition. In equity markets, when pessimism increases, it is time to keep your eyes and ears open. In a philosophical note on investing for stakeholders, DSP Mutual Fund, a Mumbai-based fund house, argues that your ability to understand businesses and sectors shows whether market assumptions about those sectors are conservative or aggressive. If assumptions are aggressive, it is time to sell. If assumptions are conservative, it is time to buy. When it is neither, it is time to do nothing. That, the fund house argues, is the most difficult thing to do. The present situation across financial markets, fraught with uncertainty, could test your ability to hang in there.

Amid all the bold headlines, look for businesses with predictable cash flows. Utility services, for example, generate cash flows regardless of market conditions. Electricity and gas supply, railway reservations, toll roads, and similar businesses have predictable cash flows. You may not be able to say the same about technology, artificial intelligence, or biotech sectors. Experts at the fund house argue that you must understand the difference between estimates based on probability and those based on hope. Estimates for companies that provide basic utilities are probabilistic. Those for the new sectors are based on hope. The key thing to watch for in the new sectors is revenue growth. All the effort must translate into consistent topline growth.

There are no touristy things to do when investing. There is no fun park out there where you can satisfy your adrenaline rush. Nobel laureate Paul Samuelson described investing like watching paint dry or grass grow. If you believe the punditry on investment philosophies, you need to take the excitement and thrill out of your investments. Let it grow passively as you go along with your life. Buffett often advocated getting rich 'slow'. The only thing you may need to do is determine an appropriate asset allocation plan. Working with a professional to do that will help you take a dispassionate view. The key takeaway is to stay patient, stay disciplined, and let the journey matter more than the destination. When you look back years later, the journey may look more satisfying than a particular destination.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

'Need deeper look into tax on equities'

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE government will examine demands for rationalising taxes on equity investments, but is not considering any kneejerk response to stem foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows from Indian equity markets, a senior finance ministry official told *The New Indian Express*.

"There is a need for a deeper study of the taxation of capital gains from equity investments," the official said, acknowledging that there are currently divergent views on the issue. The official was responding to a question from TNIE on why the government chose to provide tax relief on investments in government bonds by foreign investors while leaving unaddressed the long-standing demand for lower capital gains taxes on equities.

Inclusion of new bonds to FAR-designated securities

A finance ministry official said that the decision to expand Fully Accessible Route (FAR)-designated securities to include all new issuances of 15-year, 30-year and 40-year government bonds addresses a long-standing demand from foreign investors, particularly pension and insurance funds that seek long-duration assets.

According to the official, the government plans to undertake a detailed assessment of the revenue generated from capital gains taxes on equities. "At present, what we have is a consolidated figure for capital gains tax collections from all asset classes — real estate, bonds, gold and equities. We intend to conduct a more granular study of capital gains tax collections from equity investments," the official said.

Currently, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) are subject to a 20% tax on short-term capital gains arising from shares held for less than 12 months and a 12.5% tax on long-term capital gains. In addition, a Securities Transaction Tax (STT) ranging from 0.05% to 0.15% is levied on equity and equity derivatives transactions.

On the measures announced for government bonds, the official said they form part of a broader strategy to deepen India's bond market.

The official noted that the decision to expand Fully Accessible Route (FAR)-designated securities to include all new issuances of 15-year, 30-year and 40-year government bonds addresses a long-standing demand from foreign investors, particularly pension and insurance funds that seek long-duration assets.

Tata Trusts to hike spends on philanthropy to ₹2k cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA @ New Delhi

TATA Trusts will increase its philanthropic spending to ₹2,000 crore in the current fiscal, as per its CEO Siddharth Sharma, who hit back at media focussing only on 'chaos' in the congregation of charities that control Tata Sons, the holding company of the $180 billion Tata Group.

Seeking to put "the record straight about the activity of the Tata Trusts, for which we exist- philanthropy", in a post on LinkedIn, Sharma bemoaned the media amplifying "certain narratives, at times, without verification & analysis- that happens", terming it "both the reality and tragedy of our times".

Recollecting how the Tata Trusts came into existence and its purpose, he wrote, "As the majority shareholders in Tata Sons, we deploy, year after year, the dividends that we receive, into philanthropic causes that uplift those at society's margins and help build a nation. This predates, by 122 years, the CSR mandate that was introduced in 2014 for Indian business.

Sharma said, "For FY26 alone, the philanthropic spending of the Tata Trusts was ₹1,600 crore, slated to go up to ₹2,000 crore in the current fiscal." This scale of spending, on a YoY basis, he said, "has enabled us to provide quality, yet affordable cancer care, to citizens of Assam, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and UP."

Jio breaks into WIPO's top-20 global patent list

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

JIO Platforms (JPL), the technology arm of Reliance Industries, has entered the top 20 of the latest Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applicant rankings released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), becoming the only Indian technology company to achieve the feat.

JPL jumped 320 places in 2025 rankings, placing it alongside global majors like Huawei, Samsung, Qualcomm, LG, Nokia, Google, Apple and Microsoft. The company said its patent portfolio is focused on emerging tech including 5G, 5G Advanced, 6G, AI, AI-native networks, cloud-native platforms, automation, radio access tech and digital services infra.

FIFA GOAL American RUSH!

Iran's players take part in a training session ahead of their clash against New Zealand in Tijuana (Mexico) on Saturday | AFP

Iran vs NZ: The most politicised tie of WC

Amidst an ongoing war with the co-hosts, restrictions on stay, challenges in the lead up to the tournament, Iran will take field in Los Angeles. **Swaroop Swaminathan** gives a lowdown

"THE visas," a US State department spokesperson had said, "necessary for Iran to compete in the World Cup, including for athletes and necessary support staff, have been issued. We will not allow the Iranian team to abuse this system to sneak terrorists into the United States under false pretences." In Los Angeles on Monday night (6.30 AM IST on Tuesday), Team Melli, who will have made the hours-long flight journey from Tijuana early on Monday, will face New Zealand.

One of the most politicised games in the history of the World Cup will commence. In the backdrop of an ongoing war but under the promise of a permanent ceasefire (according to latest reports, negotiations are still ongoing).

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As soon as the first US missiles landed in Iranian territory in the last week of February, Iran's participation in the World Cup appeared to be in jeopardy. How could it not be? They had just lost their head of state, killed by the government of the main co-host. One sixty eight people, mostly girls aged between seven and 12, were killed in another attack inside a school in southern Iran (international agencies including ones headquartered in the US have repeatedly said US missiles were found at the sight). Amnesty International, in a press release in March, found that the US violated international humanitarian law by failing to take all feasible precautions to avoid civilian harm'.

Over the next two-and-a-half months, both sides traded gunfire and missiles. It's in this background that the Asian nation, denied ordinary visas to stay and train in the US like other teams, will face New Zealand. The football World Cup has seen and survived a lot of things. The last World Cup was created and built on the back of migrant labourers from some of the poorest regions in Asia. The 1978 event in Argentina remains one of the dirtiest sporting events of all time. But the World Cup has — had — never seen a participating nation play in a country while being at war with that nation. In almost a century, this sentence has never been written. 2026 has changed that.

After Iran's domestic league was suspended following strikes, all the players gathered in Turkiye to have a pre-World Cup training camp in May. While there, they also applied for visas. But even to get to Turkiye, they were on a 40-hour bus journey from Tehran per The Athletic. In all, they have had two camps — one in Tehran before the one in Antalya.

Apart from ensuring they were fresh and ready for the tournament — 17 of the 26 players of the national team come from the suspended domestic league — the purpose of the camp was to ensure they played a few friendlies and trained together as a unit. There were also hectic backchannel talks between FIFA and the Iran officials. President Gianni Infantino even met the players and officials in March. "It was a pleasure to meet the players of the Iran national football team ahead of their friendly match against Costa Rica in Antalya," he had posted on his official Insta account. "I had the opportunity to spend time with the players, as well as Mehdi Mohammed Nabi, the First Vice President of the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran...

"Football brings unity and hope, even in the most challenging circumstances, and FIFA will continue to support the team to ensure the best possible conditions as they prepare for the FIFA World Cup. I look forward to seeing them deliver a positive message of humanity and togetherness to the world."

Considering the circumstances, they have given it a fair go. But the situation has been challenging for all of them. They were training in a land they couldn't call theirs, they had to keep checking in on their families who were in the middle of an actual warzone — idea of a single missed call enough to send them into a negative spiral — all the while preparing for some of the biggest games in their history. "It's been very difficult," Alireza Jahanbaksh had told ESPN a few days ago. "You have to keep checking on your family, on your loved ones, on your people back home and of course it's affecting the group. As Team Melli, we try to do everything to make our people happy, especially in this situation."

Once they completed their camp in Antalya, they took a private jet to Tijuana — their original base was Arizona — where they would

spend all their nights and most days. When they landed in Mexico, they were wearing gold pins bearing the no 168 to remember the people who were killed in the missile strike (it's unlikely that FIFA will allow that gesture during their games). It acts as a constant reminder of the unique situation they find themselves in. The scars from back home.

It's in this context that the city they will play their first match in — Los Angeles — will also play a big role. It's generally known as the city with the highest number of Iranians outside Iran. In fact, there's a part of LA which goes by Tehrangeles (Tehran plus Los Angeles).

In a parallel universe, the Iranian team could have gone to this part of town and chilled with people and called them their own while sharing Persian food. Now? They won't even be allowed to stay overnight.

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'Sport', as per frequent refrain, is war minus the shooting. This one is sport with an active war and a lot of shooting. That's before you begin to consider the very real prospect of Iran facing the US in the Round of 32; it will happen if both teams finish runners-up in their groups.

QUICK PASSES

Body found outside Mexico Stadium

MEXICO CITY: Mexican authorities are investigating how a corpse ended up outside a stadium in the border city of Tijuana, where Iran's national team has been training for its upcoming World Cup match against New Zealand. Officials said they found the corpse on Friday in a parking lot across from Tijuana's Estadio Caliente stadium. Iran's national squad is using Tijuana as its base during the World Cup due to visa delays.

Two charged over Eng theft row

KANSAS CITY: Two men have been charged with one felony count each of receiving stolen property late Saturday after England's national team discovered that some of its equipment had been stolen while The Three Lions were moving from their pre-training base in Florida to their World Cup base camp in Kansas City. Prosecutors in Jackson County, Missouri, charged Mustafa Salik and Erfan Kamal, both of San Antonio, Texas, with the class D felony, which carries a sentence of up to seven years in prison. Bond was set at $75,000 for each of them.

'Portugal talented but not favourites'

PALM BEACH (FLORIDA); Portugal midfielder Vitinha said his talented side were full of quality but denied they were favourites for the World Cup. "We know that we have a lot of quality and talent, with players in big clubs... but on paper, that means nothing," Vitinha said at a press conference after Portugal held their first training session at their base in Palm Beach, Florida. "I would say we're contenders, without a doubt, we're a strong squad. But I wouldn't say that we're favourites." Portugal kick off their tournament against the Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday.

SPAIN: Simon (23); Porro (12), Cubarsi (22), Laporte (14), Cucurella (24); Ruiz (8), Rodri (16), Pedri (20); Yamal (19), Oyarzabal (21), Williams (17)

CAPE VERDE: Vozinha (1); Moreira (22), L Costa (5), Lopes (4), S Cabral (13); Pina (6), D Duarte (14), Monteiro (10); Mendes (20), Livramento (19), J Cabral (7).

Spain begin big quest

2010 champions Spain will begin their campaign against debutants Cabo Verde on Monday. A look...

YAMAL IN FOCUS

Despite being just 18, Lamine Yamal is already an established star at the elite level and he'll be hoping to leave a mark at the grand stage. Gifted with technicians all over the park, La Roja have all the tools in their locker to go all the way and they'll be hoping for a strong start.

SET FOR BIG MOMENT

The Blue Sharks will be swimming in a new territory and they'll be looking to give a strong first impression. They have a settled squad and they'll be happy to sit back and defend and look to hurt rivals on counter-attack.

Live Action

Spain vs Cabo Verde @ Atlanta Stadium | 9:30 PM

OTHER MATCHES

Group H: Uruguay vs Saudi Arabia in Miami Gardens (3.30 am on Tuesday)

Group G: Iran vs New Zealand in Los Angeles Stadium (6.30 am on Tuesday)

All LIVE on Unite8 Sports & Zee5

Ruthless Germany show in historic night for Curacao

AGENCIES @ Houston

CURACAO became the smallest country ever to compete at the World Cup as they lost 1-7 against four-time champions Germany on Sunday.

Germany made a fast start, scoring in the sixth minute through Felix Nmecha. Looking to double the lead, Germany made wave after wave of attacks but it was Curacao who found the equaliser. Livano Comenencia lifted the Curacao fans by scoring the country's first goal at the showpiece event. However, Germany regained control again before going ahead for the second time in the 38th minute through

Germany's Jamal Musiala (L) after scoring the fourth goal on Sunday | AP

Nico Schlotterbeck. Just a few minutes later, Kai Havertz scored from the penalty spot to make it 3-1. From thereon, it was one-way traffic as Germany ended with seven goals.

Result: Germany **7** (Nmecha 6', Schlotterbeck 38', Havertz 45+5', 88', Musiala 47', Brown 68', Undav 78') **bt** Curacao **1** (Comenencia 21').

Vinicius rescues a point for Samba boys

AGENCIES @ East Rutherford

FACING pressure to win their first World Cup title since 2002, Brazil were outplayed early and needed Vinicius Junior's 32nd-minute goal to gain a 1-1 draw against Morocco on Saturday in a pulsating, high-profile group match. "We started on a really bad note," Vinicius said through a translator. "For certain, we got to hold on to the ball. We have to move better."

A semifinalist four years ago, Morocco went ahead on Ismael Saibari's 21st-minute goal. Brazil evened the score 11 minutes later through Vinicius.

Fairytale outcome

VANCOUVER: Nestory Irankunda called it "unreal" after the 20-year-old born in a refugee camp played a pivotal role in Australia's shock 2-0 win over Turkiye.

Australia's Nestory Irankunda (17) celebrates after scoring against Turkiye | AFP

The livewire winger, who was born in a Tanzanian refugee camp after his parents fled Burundi, put the unfancied Socceroos on their way after 27 minutes in Vancouver on Saturday.

Results: Brazil **1** (Vinicius 32') **drew with** Morocco (Saibari 21'); Haiti **0 lost to** Scotland **1** (McGinn 28'); Australia **2** (Irankunda 27', Metcalfe 75') **bt** Turkiye **0**. Qatar **1** (Muheim 90+4 OG) **drew with** Swiss 1 (Embolo 17').

Formidable Spain seek repeat of 2010

AGENCIES @ Guadalajara

SPAIN will have a full squad available for its World Cup opener against Cape Verde on Monday with forward Victor Muñoz returning to training a day after Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams also were back.

Spain was hit by injuries late last season and had to adjust its preparations in the run-up to football's biggest meet. Mikel Merino and Fabian Ruiz also dealt with injury setbacks before returning to the squad. One player who did not make it in time was Barcelona midfielder Fermin Lopez, who has a fractured foot. The biggest concern for Spain had been with Yamal, the young Barcelona winger who injured his left hamstring in a Spanish league game in April. The 18-year-old Yamal is expected to lead the team as it tries to win its second World Cup title.

Lamine Yamal | AP

Belgium face Egypt test

BELGIUM AND EGYPT GO HEAD-TO-HEAD IN WHAT PROMISES TO BE AN INTERESTING BATTLE. A LOOK...

CAN SALAH STEP UP?

Egypt are a tough team to break down and they'll be hopeful of making a strong return to the big stage after missing out on the 2022 edition. Mo Salah was far from his best this season but Egypt fans will hope that the veteran can rise to the occasion.

BELGIUM EYE GOOD RUN

After a disappointing 2022 edition, Belgium will be gunning for a good show this time. Their strength lies in their attack with the likes of Jeremy Doku, Romelu Lukaku and Kevin De Bruyne in the squad. If the trio can step up, they could have a memorable campaign.

Live Action Belgium vs Egypt @ Seattle Stadium | 12:30 AM (IST Tuesday morning) **LIVE on Unite8 Sports and Zee5**

Pathbreaker from Sri Lanka

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

IN late 2020, a young leg-spinner scalped the wicket of veteran Angelo Mathews in a Lanka Premier League match. While his numbers (1/29) may not have been eye-catching, the significance of his appearance for Jaffna Stallions was high. Vijayakanth Viyaskanth, then 19, became the first player born and brought up from Jaffna — the heart of the Sri Lankan Tamil community — in an internationally televised match.

Six years and two Sri Lankan appearances later, the leggie is now watched by many as India A take on Sri Lanka A for the second time in the tri-series.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

SL A VS INDIA A, DAMBULLA LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK, 10 AM

Smriti and Sharma steal the show

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IN the last decade, despite the heartbreaks and victories, one thing has remained constant in Indian women's cricket. In Deepti Sharma, they trust.

When the off-spinner from Agra takes wickets, India do well. And when they need wickets, it is Deepti they go to. And more often than not she has delivered. She was there in the middle of 2017 and 2022 heartbreaks. She was there as the leading wicket-taker in the ODI World Cup triumph last year.

On Sunday, after Smriti Mandhana (68) and Richa Ghosh (34) took India to 170/6 against Pakistan in their opening game of the T20 World Cup, they trusted Deepti to do the job again. The offie started off with the wicket of Gull Feroza in the fifth over to make first strike. Then, she removed the counter-attacking Ayesha Zafar soon after. With NR Sree Charani and Shafali Verma joining the party, Deepti delivered the final blow, taking the last three wickets in a single over to hand India a massive 64-run victory.

In Deepti, India trust.

India's Deepti Sharma took 5/10 against Pakistan in Edgbaston on Sunday | AFP

Brief scores: India 170/6 in 20 ovs (Smriti 68, Kaur 36, Ghosh 34) **bt** PAK 106 in 17 ovs (Muneeba 41; Deepti 5/10); NED 139/8 in 20 ovs (Babette 50; Marufa 2/31) **bt** BAN 141/4 in 19.1 ovs (Ferdous 50); (Sat result) NZ 162/6 in 20 ovs (Halliday 40; Alleyne 4/27) **lost to** WI 163/3 in 19.5 ovs (Campbelle 90 n.o).

Today's matches (Southampton)
● NZ vs SL, 7PM ● England vs Ireland, 11PM
Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar

EXPRESS READ

Joshna secures Asiad spot for record 7th time

CHENNAI: Joshna Chinappa secured a spot in the Asian Games by topping the selection trials at the ISTA on Sunday. The former World No 10 defeated Unnati Tripathi 6-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-7, 11-4. Earlier, she saw off Rathika Seelan, Aakansha Salunke and Pooja Arthi.

Dhiraj completes golden double in Antalya WC

ANTALYA: Dhiraj Bommadevara completed a golden double in Antalya, stunning Paris Olympics medallist Lee Woo Seok of South Korea 7-3 to clinch his maiden individual Archery World Cup gold, just hours after winning the recurve mixed team title with Kumkum Mohod, here.

Parul betters own record to finish second

NEW DELHI: Parul Chaudhary bettered her own national record in the women's 5000m event by clocking a new personal best time of 15:04.26 to finish second at the Meeting Nikaia 2026 in Nice, France. The Indian finished the race behind Ethiopia's Bereka Seniya Mohammed.

Hamilton claims his first Ferrari win at Barcelona GP

MONTMELO (SPAIN): Lewis Hamilton claimed his first victory for Ferrari on Sunday at the Barcelona-Catalunya F1 GP, ending championship leader Kimi Antonelli's five-race winning streak. Hamilton finished ahead of George Russell and Lando Norris, while Antonelli was forced to abandon in the final stages because of a technical problem.

Provisional Ind squad for CWG

ENS @ Chennai

NEERAJ Chopra was provisionally added to India's squad for the Commonwealth Games, which is set to begin in Glasgow next month.

The multiple Olympic medallist is yet to take part in an event this season and is recovering from his back injury. His selection is subject to him breaching the CWG mark (82.61m). **Squad: Men:** Neeraj Chopra, Rohit Yadav, Yashvir Singh, Gurindervir Singh, Animesh Kujur, Gulveer Singh, Tejas Shirse, Yashas P, Santhosh K, Sarvesh Kushare, Aadarsh Ram J, Dev Meena, Kuldeep Kumar, Sreeshankar M Lokesh S, Selva Prabhu, Praveen Chithravel, Samardeep Singh Gill and Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Tajeswin Shankar, Vishal TK, R Ramesh. **Women:** Parul Chaudhary, Pooja, Manpreet Kaur, Seema, Nidhi Rani, Ravina, Priyanka, Ansa Babu, Rashdeep Kaur, Neeru Pathak.

सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Civil Aviation
Government of India

SOARING TOWARDS VIKSIT BHARAT, CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH PROGRESS

"Over the past decade, India's aviation sector has undergone a historic transformation, evolving from an exclusive club into the world's third-largest domestic aviation market"
- *Narendra Modi*, Prime Minister

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Civil Aviation is driving growth and connecting India with its landmark achievements and advancements

UDAN-Enhancing Regional Connectivity
Operationalised 669 routes, 95 airports, 3.50 Lakh flights have served 1.66 Crore passengers

Airport Infrastructure Expansion
Operational airports more than doubled from 74 to 165 with more than Rs. 1.4 Lakh Crore investment

Modernising Aviation Legal Framework
Legislative and Regulatory reforms to enhance global competitiveness

Drone Ecosystem
39000 drones registered and 44,000+ pilot certificates issued

Women in Aviation
Increased participation, over 15% of Country's Pilots are Women

Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO)
Transforming India as an MRO hub, Organisations have grown from 96 to 164

12 YEARS
INDIA RISING AVIATION SOARING

Inclusive Airport Facilities
Redefining the airport experience through Udan Yatri Cafe, Flybrary and Kids' Zones

Digital Transformation
DigiYatra facilitating contactless travel at 38 airports with over 10 Crore seamless journeys

Domestic Manufacturing
Creating an ecosystem for Indigenous civil aircraft manufacturing and MROs

Green Airports
100 airports operating on green energy

Strengthening Aviation Training Ecosystem
Established 41 Flying Training Organisations across the country

Aircraft Leasing Hub
378 aviation assets leased

CBC 03111/13/0002/2627

12 Saal Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-kalyan ke

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15.06.2026
MONDAY

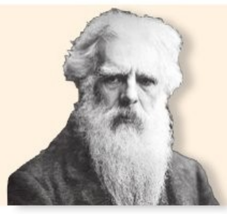
DAY'S DIARY

Horse in Motion

On this day in 1878, photographer Eadweard Muybridge captured the world's first moving-picture sequence using 12 cameras

THE DEBATE

In 1870s, an argument rose between former Californian governor Leland Stanford and his horse-racing friends about what happens to a horse's legs while it is galloping



THE FIRST TIME

Eadweard, for the first time, used chronophotography technique to break down continuous motion into individual photographic frames

RESULT

The images showed clear movement of the horse's legs, with two of the 12 images showing a horse in mid-flight, no hoofs touching the ground

Here's what's happening in the city!

PG 2

Trained in Bengaluru, World No 374 tennis star Vaishnavi Adkar, is steadily climbing the rankings, with her sights set on the world's top 200, Grand Slams and the 2028 Olympics

NET-FLEX & SKILL

SAPTARSHI C

FOR nearly two decades, Indian women's tennis has been searching for its next consistent singles star. After the trailblazing success of Sania Mirza, who rose to World No 27 and became one of the country's most celebrated athletes, only a handful of players have managed to make significant breakthroughs on the international stage. Names such as Ankita Raina, Karman Thandi and Rutuja Bhosale have carried the torch in recent years, but the challenge of consistently competing at the highest level remains the same.

Now, 21-year-old Vaishnavi Adkar is steadily building a promising career of her own. Having climbed the rankings and established herself as one of India's leading women's singles players, Adkar has set her sights on a clearly defined target. "My next goal is to get into the top 200," says the World No 374, who is currently training at Rohan Bopanna Tennis Academy in Bengaluru. Notably, in a four-month period, she has climbed 321 spots in singles from the previous 695.

While the immediate objective is a place among the top 200, her long-term vision stretches further still. Beyond that, her ambitions are even bigger – earning entry into Grand Slam tournaments and their qualifying events. Adkar also reveals that the groundwork for a potential campaign towards the 2028 Olympic Games has already begun.

The journey has been anything but straightforward. Adkar recalls struggling for results in her formative years. "Initially, when I started playing junior tournaments, I didn't get a lot of wins. I wasn't even able to go past the quarterfinals in the U-10 and U-12 categories. But when I started travelling more towards the end of the U-12 phase, I began winning more matches. Playing regularly gave me confidence," she says.

Playing against top-ranked opponents helped me analyse my game. It taught me the importance of patience, discipline and tactical adaptability

Vaishnavi Adkar, tennis player

PIC: VISHWAJITH ULIYA

Throughout the journey, her family has remained her strongest pillar. Growing up in a joint family, Adkar benefited from constant encouragement, particularly from her parents. It was her mother who first introduced her to the sport, setting her on a path that would eventually lead to the professional circuit. A recent four-week training and competition stint in Europe further accelerated her development. "Playing against top-ranked opponents helped me analyse my game. It taught me the importance of patience, discipline and tactical adaptability," Adkar says.

A key figure in her development has been coach Balachandran Manikkath. Adkar credits him with understanding her game and helping refine the tools required to compete at major games. Her playing style reflects the aggressive brand of tennis that dominates the modern women's game. Naturally an attacking baseliner, Adkar likes to dictate rallies with powerful groundstrokes and take control of points from the outset. The ability to strike the ball with pace and authority has become one of the defining features of her game.

Yet, her European experience also highlighted the need for greater versatility. Facing opponents capable of absorbing pace and consistently returning deep balls made her realise that aggression alone would not be enough. The Pune-based tennis player shares, "I am trying to add some new layers to my defensive approach, fitness, serve and variations. I need to bring changes to my game. Being aggressive on the court comes naturally to me. I enjoy hitting the ball hard and playing with intensity. However, over time, I've realised that this approach doesn't always work in every situation. The top-ranked players are able to adapt to different circumstances while maintaining their intensity throughout the match. I believe that every great player must also be a strong defender. That's an area I'm actively working on."

Adkar places considerable emphasis on staying present during matches and committing to predetermined goals rather than becoming distracted by score lines or external expectations. It is a mindset she believes has played a key role in her recent progress.

Asked which qualities she would borrow from the world's best players, her answer offered an insight into the standards she aspires to – the power of Aryna Sabalenka, the movement of Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz, and the mentality and footwork of Novak Djokovic.

BTS during SZA's acceptance speech at the 52nd AMAs

SZA turned heads at the 52nd AMAs in a royal blue saree-inspired gown by B'luru designer Niharika Vivek, who opens up about creating the look and seeing it take centre stage globally

NO BLUES, JUST BLUE

SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN

WHEN *All The Stars* hitmaker SZA walked on stage to accept the Best Female R&B Artist award from BTS at the American Music Awards (AMAs), the interaction turned out to be one of the night's most talked-about crossovers. Between the *Snooze* singer fangirling over the group during her speech and recent conversations around a possible collaboration with BTS member V, fans were already celebrating the exchange online.

Niharika Vivek

But alongside the music moment, another detail drew massive attention – SZA's striking royal blue ensemble created by Bengaluru designer Niharika Vivek. Featuring a structured embroidered corset, dramatic cut-outs and flowing pleated drapes, the saree-inspired gown brought together Indian craftsmanship and contemporary red carpet glamour. "It was surreal. In fact, when I first saw the message from her team, I had to verify that it wasn't a scam," laughs Vivek, recalling the moment when SZA's team first reached out.

The designer reveals that the concept was created with SZA's growing relationship with India in mind, while still staying true to the label's signature aesthetics. "The concept for this piece was originally designed with a different event in mind. We knew that she has been building a special relationship with India and so we wanted to put her in something that screamed quintessentially Indian at the first glance but had our classic twist to it," she shares.

Earlier in February, the singer had made a surprise appearance in a saree at the Maha Shivratri celebrations hosted by Sadhguru in Coimbatore.

The draped corset style itself was requested by SZA's team, with the design built around that direction.

One of the key elements, interestingly, was the use of heritage fabric. The corset was crafted from a 50-year-old vintage Kanjivaram saree paired with satin silk drapes. A hip cut-out was added to emphasise the saree inspiration while maintaining a contemporary silhouette.

Colour also played a defining role. The rich royal blue shade was chosen after the team shared SZA's preference for vibrant tones. "We were told she loves bright colours. We hadn't seen her in a blue this shade very often, so we knew it would be a moment for her," Vivek says, highlighting how the fit subtly echoed the visual mood of SZA's album *SOS*, which features the singer seated on a diving board over open water in a minimalist setting. Released in 2022, the album notably went on to win Best Progressive R&B Album at the 66th Grammy's in 2024, with *Snooze* also winning Best R&B Song. It also spent multiple weeks at No 1 on the Billboard 200, while becoming one of the longest-running No1 R&B albums by a female artist in recent years.

The designer studied her past style, too, to zero in on the final look. "Her team gave us complete creative liberty, which let us explore her style history and arrive at something we knew would resonate with her," she shares. SZA's response later confirmed the success of the design, as she commented, 'THIS DRESS IS INCREDIBLE... literally want 30 more like it in every colour lol thank you SO MUCH', on one of Vivek's Instagram posts from the night featuring the singer herself.

While Vivek hasn't met the artist yet, she hopes that will change soon, especially after the overwhelming response to the look. "This feels like just the beginning," she added, hinting that more international collabs could be on the horizon as the label looks to take its craftsmanship further onto global stages.

CITY READ

Speciality coffee brand opens seventh outlet in city

Maverick & Farmer, a speciality coffee brand, has launched its seventh cafe in Bengaluru at Kothanur, open from 9am till 11pm. Set inside a restored residence in North Bengaluru, it is the brand's largest outlet, housing a live roastery, coffee academy, retail space, community centre and cafe. Sourced from estates across India, the brand's coffees prominently feature beans from Nellikad Estate in Kodagu. The cafe also has flexible community areas to host workshops and gatherings, as well as a conference room for more focused conversations. For details, call 97399 99112.

Bengaluru youngsters secure honours at top American university for AI research

Greenwood High alumni Rishikesh Madhuvairy (Class of 2025), a freshman at Rice University, and Rahul Prabhu (Class of 2024), a sophomore at Purdue University – secured first place in the Poster Competition at Purdue University's AI Research Showcase 2026, held recently. The event brought together leading researchers, industry experts and students to present groundbreaking advancements in artificial intelligence and its real-world applications. The award-winning project focused on developing an AI-powered defect detection model for semiconductor wafers, addressing one of the most critical challenges in semiconductor manufacturing. By leveraging advanced artificial intelligence techniques, the model is designed to identify microscopic defects with greater speed and accuracy, helping improve chip quality, manufacturing efficiency and overall reliability of semiconductor devices.

Jhumka Gira Re...

Jhumkewali, a girl-meets-girl romance between two college students set in '70s Bombay, is gearing up for its premiere in city, after 11 houseful shows across India

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

A jhumka falls, not in Bareilly's bazaar (as the iconic Asha Bhosle song goes) but on a crowded Bombay local train, and a filmy love story begins – this time, between Rekha, an English student and Bindu, a boyishly charming History student. In the midst of the political upheaval of the '70s, these two move heaven and earth to turn their meet-cute into a real date. Does it happen? You'll have to find out in *Jhumkewali*, a play that's being performed in Bengaluru after sold-out shows in Mumbai, Delhi and Pune.

With a smile, Nidhi Krishna, who co-directed the play alongside Mekhala, reveals the spark that grew into the play, "Ami Bhansali, the writer, who was in a local train one day, saw somebody selling jhumkas, and started wondering about the first person to do it – what if it was a woman in love? Especially a lesbian in love, given the lengths queer women go to for love."

Actors Harshini Misra and Lauren Robinson (of *Mismatched* fame) as Rekha and Bindu, respectively, in *Jhumkewali*

She describes the play as a 'very sweet, simple show about coming of age and queer romance'. It is a shot of queer joy sent straight to the heart – deliberately moving away from narratives that end with persecution, tragedy or suffering, which are especially common in queer stories set in the past. "There are many stories out there about the struggles of coming out, family rejection and homophobia. While they have a very important place, there should be room for stories about joy, affirmation and hope too," she says. By setting it in the past, the show tries to go further by, as Krishna put it, 'creating a legacy of queer joy'. She adds, "Tragic stories in history don't necessarily mean that queer people didn't find love and joy in their own ways. The community was not solely suffering in times which were different from ours."

This focus on joy doesn't mean that the play ignores the realities of being a young person in 1970s India, with the protests and political tensions of the time playing an important role. "The 1970s kind of hold up a mirror to our times. There was a lot of cultural, political and economic upheaval, especially in 1974. In Bombay, there were the women's protests, anti-price hike protests and the next year, the Emergency," says Krishna, adding, "The play is about things a lot of students connect to – first love in college, friendship, coming of age, but it also touches on the struggles of being a woman in the '70s, class differences and people of different backgrounds finding shared kinship."

Jhumkewali will be staged at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield, on June 27 at 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets are available at ₹500 on bookmyshow.com

The show promises to pull viewers' eyes into this world with rattan and cane sets, costumes abundant in polka dots, checks and bright colours, while soundtracks sampling disco tracks and iconic Bollywood songs (record scratches included), take your ears there too.

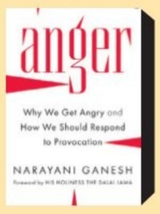
At the heart of it, though, lies the community experience the play creates in each city, notes Krishna, saying, "A lot of times we get young queer people coming for their first play, or first date, sometimes they're with family members. My hope is that we can create a space for people in Bengaluru, too, to come together and feel connected and affirmed in this space."

BOOK NOOK

Homes without Windows

By Chandu Maheria and Hemang Ashwinkumar (translator)

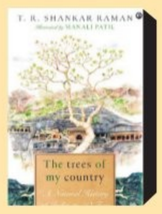
Translated into English for the first time, Maheria's writings lay bare the everyday violence of caste prejudice in India, while also capturing a turbulent historical moment in 1980s Gujarat.



Anger: Why We Get Angry and How We Should Respond to Provocation

By Narayani Ganesh

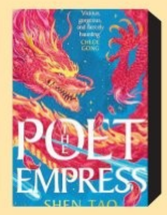
The author takes readers on a reflective journey into anger – what triggers it, why it overwhelms us and how it can both harm and transform us.



The Trees of My Country

By TR Shankar Raman

The Trees of My Country is a celebration of the trees of India – from the mundane to the magnificent – through evocative word portraits and beautiful botanical art.



The Poet Empress

By Shen Tao

In this dark epic fantasy, a young rice farmer must change the fate of a dynasty by learning poetry magic in a world where women are forbidden to read. The author draws the world with sharp clarity.

CALL OF THE WILD

Visitors admire a painting of a herd of elephants on display at Untamed Realms, an ongoing exhibition by artist Rajashekar G Alagur at Sublime Galleria, UB City, Vittal Mallya Road | **VINOD KUMAR T**

QUICKFIX

SPANISH TOMATO TOAST (PAN CON TOMATE)

INGREDIENTS

- **Bread:** 2 slices
- **Salt to taste**
- **Ground pepper:** 1/2 tsp
- **Garlic (crushed):** 1/2 tsp for each slice
- **Tomato:** 2
- **Olive oil:** 1 tbsp
- **Basil leaves:** 3-4

METHOD

- Cut the tomatoes in half. Grate the flesh of the tomatoes and discard the peels.
- Toast the bread in a pan on a low flame till golden brown and crunchy.
- Rub the crushed garlic on the toast and spread the tomato purée on top.
- Sprinkle salt, pepper and drizzle some olive oil. Garnish with a few basil leaves and serve.

Contributed by **Chandana Nagaraju,** Bengaluru

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

I have a two-year-old Pomeranian. How much exercise and outdoor time is ideal for the breed, especially during extreme summers?

A two-year-old Pomeranian generally requires about 30 to 60 minutes of daily exercise through short walks, indoor play and mental stimulation. During extreme summers, outdoor activity should be limited to cooler hours such as early mornings or late evenings to prevent heat stress, as small breeds can overheat quickly. Watch for excessive panting, lethargy, drooling, or difficulty breathing during walks. Avoid hot pavements that may burn the paws, and always provide access to fresh water and shaded, well-ventilated areas. Indoor games and light training sessions are excellent alternatives during peak heat.

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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FITBIT

FIVE YOGA PRACTICES FOR BETTER SLEEP HYGIENE

Better sleep often starts before you get into bed. After a day of work, screens, travel and stress, the body may need help to slow down. A good night routine should be gentle. It should release tension, slow the breath and help the mind settle. These five yoga practices can support better sleep when done regularly and without force.

1. SEATED NECK AND SHOULDER RELEASE

Sit on a chair or on the bed. Keep the spine tall and shoulders relaxed. Roll the shoulders slowly five times backward. Then gently turn the head right and left. Keep the movement small and comfortable.

2. APANASANA (KNEE-TO-CHEST POSE)

Lie on your back with both knees bent. Bring one knee, or both knees, gently towards the chest. Hold behind the thighs or on the shins. Keep the shoulders relaxed. Do not pull hard.

3. RECLINED TWIST

Lie on your back with knees bent and feet on the floor. Slowly drop both knees to one side. Keep the shoulders relaxed. Do not force the knees down. Stay for five breaths and repeat on the other side.

4. LEGS ON CHAIR

Lie on your back and place the calves on a chair or bed. Let the knees stay bent and the lower back relaxed. Keep the arms comfortable by the sides. Stay here for one to two minutes.

5. SLOW BREATHING WITH BODY RELAXATION

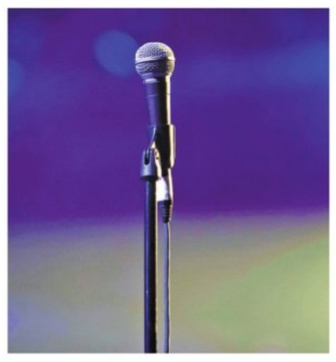
Place one hand on the belly. Breathe in slowly through the nose. Exhale slightly longer than you inhale. With every exhale, relax the face, jaw, shoulders, chest, belly and legs. Continue for one to two minutes.

Move slowly and breathe normally. If there is sharp pain, dizziness, numbness, or discomfort that increases, stop and seek professional advice.

Sleep improves when the body learns to slow down regularly.

By Naveen Sharma, Yoga expert at Yoga Circle by cult— a fitness and wellness platform

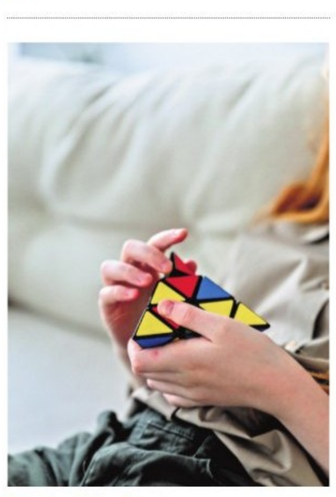
WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Comedy Showcase

Enjoy this live stand-up comedy show with a surprise lineup where comics dish out their best jokes and most outrageous anecdotes. Take your partner or your friends along and share a memorable evening.

WHEN: June 15, 2pm onwards
WHERE: The Comedy Theatre, Church Street
CALL: 82996 72963



Brain Workout

Have trouble solving the Rubix Cube? Then learn to solve the pyramid shaped Pyraminx – the first step to solving a Rubix Cube. Learn the methods to crack the puzzle under the tutelage of world record holders.

WHEN: June 15, 5pm onwards
WHERE: Brain Sttudio Global, Padmanabhanagar
CALL: 63623 59655

Sushi Feast

Indulge in a week-long celebration of sushi through creations that have traditional Japanese techniques layered with bold Southeast Asian influences. In this specially curated à la carte menu, savour takuwan & tofu nigiri, mille feuille spicy avocado, spicy salmon cream cheese roll and more.

WHEN: June 15 onwards, 12.30pm and 6.30pm
WHERE: Soi & Sake, Taj Bangalore, Devanahalli
CALL: 91489 06663

Paint with Tissues

Explore textured painting by layering ordinary tissues to make visually appealing artworks that can be displayed at home. Learn to layer and blend while also showcasing your creativity.

WHEN: June 15, 12pm onwards
WHERE: The Rendezvous, Koramangala
CALL: 97809 41163

Sunrise Trek

Get your body moving in the midst of nature at this early morning trek. Located a short distance away from Bengaluru, in Kabbaldurga, participants can also take part in kayaking, swimming and more.

WHEN: June 15, 11pm onwards
WHERE: Marathahalli Bridge (pick up point)
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Musical Night

Immerse yourself in the soulful tunes of **Omansh Bhardwaj** while soaking in a cosy, high-energy community vibe. At this jam session, pair the music with freshly made comfort food.

WHEN: June 17, 5pm
WHERE: OTP – Oven Tawa Pan, Shankarapura
CALL: 080 5035 9369

ARTCORNER

A WOMAN ON A BLUE CHOWKI

Nusra Latif Qureshi's artwork engages with visual histories of South Asian and Australian culture, questioning interpretations

SUAVE & STEADY

HERE IS A QUICK LOOK AT THE HONDA CITY FACELIFT EDITION

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

FOR over two decades, the Honda City has remained the benchmark in India's mid-size sedan segment. Even as SUVs dominated the market, the City managed to retain its appeal through a blend of elegance, comfort, reliability and driving refinement.

Six years after the launch of the fifth-generation model, Honda has now introduced a comprehensive update to keep the sedan fresh and competitive. Here are my impressions:

EXTERIOR

Without altering the character of the elegant sedan, Honda has given the City a sharper and more contemporary look. The thick chrome bar at the front has made way for a connected light bar, a honeycomb-pattern black grille and sleeker headlamps.

The Honda logo is now positioned above the light bar at bonnet level, lending the front fascia a cleaner appearance.

The tail lamps have also been mildly redesigned, while the new dual-tone alloy wheels add freshness to the profile. The sportier styling has increased the overall length of the car by 3.4cm.

INTERIOR

The cabin remains familiar but now comes in a black-and-ivory theme. The dashboard houses a larger 10.1-inch touchscreen, complemented by a new silver-textured trim strip. The front seats are supportive and ventilated, but the electric adjustment option is still missing.

Rear-seat comfort continues to be one of the City's strengths, offering generous legroom and adequate headroom. However, the rear headrests remain non-adjustable.

Dedicated rear AC vents, Type-C charging ports, a rear windscreen sunshade and an armrest with cup holders add to passenger comfort.

Storage spaces are plentiful. The petrol version offers a 506-litre boot, while the hybrid sacrifices some luggage space to accommodate the lithium-ion battery pack beneath the floor.

A 360-degree camera system has been added, but its utility is limited by the display's average resolution. The upward-angled touchscreen also tends to catch sunlight, affecting visibility under bright conditions.

Other notable features include an eight-speaker audio system, ambient lighting, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, wireless charging, connected-car technology, a sunroof and an electronic parking brake.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

POWERTRAIN

The Honda City continues with its proven 1.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine producing 120 hp, available with either a six-speed manual gearbox or a CVT automatic.

The hybrid variant combines a 1.5-litre petrol engine with two electric motors, delivering a combined output of 125 hp through an e-CVT transmission.

My test drive was in this top-spec hybrid version. The strong-hybrid system operates in three modes – Electric, Hybrid and Engine – automatically switching between them depending on driving conditions to optimise performance and efficiency.

At low speeds and during idling, the car runs in EV mode. During strong acceleration, Hybrid mode engages, drawing power from both the engine and electric motor. At cruising speeds on highways, the engine directly drives the wheels.

The transitions between modes are smooth and seamless, aided by the refined e-CVT gearbox. Honda claims an impressive fuel efficiency figure of 27.26 kmpl for the hybrid. In comparison, the petrol version delivers a claimed 17.77 kmpl with the manual transmission and 17.97 kmpl with the CVT.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
A SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

DRIVE AND HANDLING

The City continues to appeal to buyers who prefer composure over drama. Its suspension set-up, steering precision, braking performance and high-speed stability remain among the best in the segment.

Ride quality is comfortable and confidence-inspiring, though cabin insulation could have been better at higher speeds.

PRICE & VERDICT

The updated Honda City is priced between ₹12 lakh and ₹21 lakh. The top-end petrol variant costs around ₹17 lakh, making it about ₹4 lakh cheaper than the hybrid version.

This price gap is perhaps the biggest hurdle. However, for buyers prioritising fuel efficiency and whose usage patterns justify the investment, the City Hybrid remains a compelling option.

The drawback is that the hybrid is available in only a single variant priced at ₹21 lakh (ex-showroom). At this price point, the mediocre infotainment and camera systems, along with the lack of electrically adjustable front seats, fall short of expectations.

That said, the City continues to be a reliable, elegant and contemporary sedan. Honda has also strengthened its safety credentials by incorporating ADAS features, which are well calibrated for Indian driving conditions and work with minimal intrusiveness.

TORQUE TALK

MG MAJESTOR LAUNCHED

JSW MG Motor India has launched the Majestor, billed as India's first D+ SUV. The 4x2 automatic top trim is priced at ₹40.99 lakh (ex-showroom) in both six- and seven-seater configurations, while the 4x4 automatic top trim costs ₹44.99 lakh (ex-showroom) and is available only as a seven-seater. Power comes from a twin-turbo diesel engine producing 215.5 PS and 478.5 Nm, paired with an eight-speed automatic transmission. The intelligent 4WD system offers 10 off-road modes, while the SUV also features first-in-segment triple differential locks (front, centre and rear).

NEXT-GEN TIAGO & TIAGO.EV

Built on a decade-long legacy and the trust of over 700,000 customers, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles has launched the next-generation Tiago. Available in petrol, iCNG and electric powertrains, the hatchback is priced from ₹4.69 lakh for the ICE version and ₹6.99 lakh (full ownership) for the electric variant. The new Tiago combines practicality, modern technology and value, while offering customers a choice between conventional and electric mobility under a common design philosophy.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS** SMART ADS

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CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mohmad Sharif Dada Hayath Tambrahalli S/o Tambrahalli Dada Hayath R/o #472, 3rd Cross, Masjid Street, Begur Road, Bommanahalli, VTC: Bangalore South, Karnataka-560068, name of mine and my minor son has been wrongly written as T. Mohmad Sharif and Tambrahalli Mohammad Muthahhir respectively in my minor child Tambrahalli Mohammad Muthahhir Birth Certificate No. C 749926. Actual name of mine and my minor son are Mohmad Sharif Dada Hayath Tambrahalli and Mohammad Muthahhir Tambrahalli respectively.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mohmad Sharif Dada Hayath Tambrahalli S/o Tambrahalli Dada Hayath R/o #472, 3rd Cross, Masjid Street, Begur Road, Bommanahalli, VTC: Bangalore South, Karnataka-560068, name of mine and my minor son has been wrongly written as T. Mohammad Sharif and T. Mohammad Musthaqeem respectively in my minor child T. Mohammad Musthaqeem Birth Certificate No. A 688046. Actual name of mine and my minor son are Mohmad Sharif Dada Hayath Tambrahalli and Mohammad Musthaqeem Tambrahalli respectively.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **IMTHYAZ PASHA ABDUL JALEEL SAB** (Old Name) W/o **ABDUL JALEEL SAB** and Holder Passport No: N4437897 Residing at No 33, Flat 301, 4th Floor, Green Orchards, BHEL Layout, Jayanagar, Bengaluru – 560041 have changed my name to **IMTHYAZ PASHA** (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 13/6/2026 Before Notary **A.Idinabba** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NISHATH JAHAN** (Old Name) W/o **SYED MUSHTAQ AHMED** and Holder Passport No : N4720431 Residing at No 1/1, Benson Cross Road,Benson Town, Bengaluru – 560046 have changed my name to **JABEEN TAJ** (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 13/6/2026 Before Notary **A.Idinabba** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJESHWARI RAJENDRA,** aged 52 years, W/o. **Somashekar,** residing of No 9, A-001,1st Floor, 1st Cross, HIG Colony, Dollars Colony, R M V 2nd Stage, Bengaluru- 560094, have changed my name from **R. RAJESHWARI SOMASHEKAR** to **RAJESHWARI RAJENDRA** vide affidavit dated 10-06-2026 sworn before Notary **DEEPA M.** BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRATIKSHA KALLAPPA TELI, aged about 41 years, W/o Abhishek Kalshetty, resident at No.B-902, Tower 3, Daffodils, Adarsh Palm Retreat, Ecoworld, Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur Post, Bengaluru-560103. have changed my name from **"PRATIKSHA KALLAPPA TELI" to "LAAVANYA KALSHETTY"** Vide Affidavit dated 13/06/2026 Sworn to before P Nanjunda Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, M SIDDAGANGAMMA, W/o late Mudalappa, aged about 67 years, R/at Mo.4/1, Nisarga Nilaya, Near Doddanna School, Sunkadakatte, Vishwaneedam Post, Bangalore-560091.
I have born on 15/03/1959 while obtain the Passport on 30/05/2008, my date birth is wrongly mentioned as **10/03/1956 instead of 15/03/1959. I hereby declare that my Original Date of Birth is 15/03/1959.** Vide Affidavit dated 11/06/2026 Sworn to before A C Subbu Swamy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, HITESH KUMAR LAXMIDAS SHAH, S/o Laxmidas, aged about 65 years, R/at No.3F, Sundale Apartments, 55 Osborne Road, Sivan Chetty Gardens, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560042, Karnataka State, have changed my name from **HITESH KUMAR LAXMIDAS SHAH** to **HITESH LAXMIDAS SHAH,** vide affidavit dated: 12.06.2026, before Notary **S.I BALAGURU,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **POOJA RITESH AGRAWAL,** Wife of Ritesh Mahavir Agrawal, Daughter of Vinod Gopikisan Namodiya, Aged about 34 years, Presently residing at Flat No. C8, 2nd Floor, AHP Woods, Spring Dale Layout, Opposite to GCN Green Springs Apartment, Vijayanagara, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560 066, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **POOJA VINODKUMAR NIMODIYA** to **POOJA RITESH AGRAWAL.** Vide affidavit dated 13.06.2026 sworn before Ramachandrappa .C, Advocate & Notary Public, Government of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **VINOD GOPIKISAN NIMODIYA**, son of Gopikisan Nimodiya, Aged about 58 years, permanent residing at Dhamangaon Road, Gandhinagara, Yavatmal, Maharastra - 445001, Presently residing at Flat No. C8, 2nd Floor, AHP Woods, Spring Dale Layout, Opposite to GCN Green Springs Apartment, Vijayanagara, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560 066, do hereby declare that the names **VINODKUMAR GOPIKISANJI NIMODIYA** and **VINOD GOPIKISAN NIMODIYA** refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. Vide affidavit dated 13.06.2026 sworn before Ramachandrappa .C, Advocate & Notary Public, Government of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **POONAM VINOD NIMODIYA**, Wife of Vinod Gopikisan Nimodiya, Aged about 59 years, permanent residing at Dhamangaon Road, Gandhinagara, Yavatmal, Maharastra - 445001, Presently residing at Flat No. C8, 2nd Floor, AHP Woods, Spring Dale Layout, Opposite to GCN Green Springs Apartment, Vijayanagara, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560 066, do hereby declare that the names **POONAM VINODKUMAR NIMODIYA** and **POONAM VINOD NIMODIYA** refer to one and the same person, i.e., both the names are pertains myself only. Vide affidavit dated 13.06.2026 sworn before Ramachandrappa .C, Advocate & Notary Public, Government of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Smt. Shakunthala A.**, Aged 55 years, W/o. Late. Jayaramaiah M., Residing at No. 119, Ground Floor, 2nd B Cross, Opposite Fire Station, OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560043, do hereby declare that both the names **Sakamma A.** and **Shakunthala A.,** refer to one and the same person, namely myself and there is no change in my identity, status, address or any other personal particulars except the change in my name. I had initially carried out the said name-change by way of an Affidavit dated 03.06.2013 that I had executed earlier. Such change of name was also published in the Kannada Daily Newspaper Sanje Vani on 04.06.2013 as well. However, to only reiterate the said name-change and to remove any doubts whatsoever, the present paper publication is being carried out in furtherance of an Affidavit dated 12.06.2026 having been sworn to by me before Veena K., advocate and notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SRIKUMAR MOHANDASAN** R/a. 29, Sripadmam, Krishnamurthy Layout, Halehalli, Behind Garden City College, T.C. Palya, Krishnarajapuram, Bengaluru-560 036 have changed my name from **SRIKUMAR** to **SRIKUMAR MOHANDASAN** Certificate No. IN-KA86317593142870Y vide affidavit dated 11-06-2026 Sworn before Notary G. Rajendra, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **PUGAZHARASAN SELVANATHAN** & **SUBHA SUNDARI SEKHAR** parents of **ISHAN PUGAL**, aged about 7 years, D.O.B. 09-11-2018, both residing at: 12283, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, 28/2, SH35, Devasthanagalu, Gunjur, Varthur, Bengaluru -560087. Hereby declare that, We have changed our minor Son's name from **ISHAN P** & **ISHAN PUGAZHARASAN** to **'ISHAN PUGAL'** vide Affidavit dated 13.06.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary A M Rajasekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JAYSHREE BEN**, wife of No. 15227863F HAV, PARMAR LAKHAMANBHAI JIVABHAI Unit: HQ RTG ZONE, Bangalore, Karnataka, have changed my name from **JAYSHREE BEN TO PARMAR JAYASHREEBEN LAKHAMANBHAI** D.O.B 21.12.1990 vide affidavit dated: 12.06.2026 before advocate and notary L.Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANSAR PASHA**, D.O.B: 02.01.1960, S/o. Mohammed Yusuf, Residing at No. 199, 12th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Nagashettyhalli, RMV EXTEN, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru -560094, Karnataka, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED ANSAR PASHA** vide affidavit dated: 12.06.2026 before notary Smt. A. MANJULA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **FARIDA BI**, D/o. ADAM KHAN and residing at # 41/3, Thyanari Road, B S A Road, Bengaluru - 560005, have changed my name to **FAREEDA BI** vide affidavit dated 13/06/2026 sworn before advocate and notary M. Rajendra, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VINOD KUMAR N**, D.O.B: 31.08.1982, S/o. M Namdev, Residing at No. 46, 8th Cross, Ganesh Temple Street, Cholurpalya, Magadi Main Road, Bengaluru -560023, Karnataka, have changed my name to **ARJUN REDDY** vide affidavit dated: 12.06.2026 before notary Smt. A. MANJULA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AKSHAYA RIDHI SEKAR**, R/at Ananda Valmark, Doddakammanahalli, Hulimavu, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560076, declare that my name is wrongly mentioned as **AKSHAYA RIDHI** in some documents but the correct name is **AKSHAYA RIDHI SEKAR**, and my father name is wrongly mentioned as **SHEKAR MANICK** in some documents but the correct name is **SEKAR MANICKAVASAGAM**, my mother name is wrongly mentioned as **AKILA SHEKAR** but the correct name is **AKILA RAMAKUMAR**, vide affidavit dated: 05.02.2026, before Notary N.Kanchivaradaraju. Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANAND.S** S/o Sri. Sriramappa, aged about 44 years, Residing at: "Madilu Nilaya", House No.49, Ground Floor, 2nd Cross, Sai Ram Paradise Layout, Near Gangamma Temple, Bengaluru North, Amruthahalli, Bengaluru-560092 have changed my daughter's name from **VENISHA ADHYA.A to VEGANYA AARNA.A** (Date of Birth : 31-12-2017) vide Affidavit Dated: 12-06-2026, sworn to before Advocate and Notary Public H. Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANAND.S** S/o Sri. Sriramappa, aged about 44 years, Residing at: "Madilu Nilaya", House No.49, Ground Floor, 2nd Cross, Sai Ram Paradise Layout, Near Gangamma Temple, Bengaluru North, Amruthahalli, Bengaluru-560092 have changed my son's name from **HEMANTH.A to HEM VISHNU.A** (Date of Birth : 13-04-2011) vide Affidavit Dated: 12-06-2026, sworn to before Advocate and Notary Public H. Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ADESH SHETTY** , Residing at # 412 'D' Block, Janhavi Enclave, Kodichikkanahalli, BTM 3rd Stage, Bangalore South, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560076 that have corrected my name to **ADESH A SHETTY** for all purposes vide affidavit dated 03/04/2026 sworn before advocate and notary B M CHANDRASHEKHAR, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **K Padmini P Kini w/o K P Kini,** aged about 63 years, R/o #211, 2nd Cross, Canara Bank Colony, Nagarabhavi Road, Bangalore-72, do hereby declare that I have changed my name **K Poornima Kini,** to **K Padmini P Kini** and updated my name as **K Padmini P Kini** in my Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, and executed an Affidavit before Notary Public **K Gunde Gowda** vide Reg. No. 6504 on 29-05-2026, that **K Poornima Kini** and **K Padmini P Kini,** belongs to me. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified as **K Padmini P Kini** for all legal, official, and other personal purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Sri. Sanjib Panja @ Sandeep Paja, S/o Sri. Sukumar Panja @ Shivakumar Paja, aged about 48 years, presently residing at 34, Saraswati Nilaya, Venkata Charinagar, Rmv 2nd stage, Bangalore urban, Bengaluru-560094, Karnataka, India, and also having my permanent address at, #172, Near Timbar Wood Shop, Nagashetty Halli, Bangalore North, District: Bangalore-560094, I declare that below mentioned both names **"Sandeep Paja"** and **"Sanjib Panja"** refer to one and the same person, namely myself, and I declare that the names **"Sukumar Panja", "Sukumar", "Shiva Kumar Panja",** and **"Shivakumar Paja"** refer to one and the same person, namely my father, vide affidavit dated 12/6/2026 sworn to before H H Nagaraj Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, LATHA SUNDAR, W/o Vijay Gollarahalli, residing at #4/3, West Park Road, 17th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru 560055, have changed my name to **LATA SUNDAR** vide Affidavit Dated: 12/06/2026, sworn before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ALOK JAGDISH MEHROTRA, S/o Jagdish Narain Mehrotra, residing at #701, Maratt Pimento, Dollar Layout, JP Nagar 4th Phase, Opp Vega City Mall, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru 560076, have changed my name to **ALOK MEHROTRA** vide Affidavit Dated: 12/06/2026 sworn before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SRIYAPU REDDY PRABHAVATHI, Residing at Flat # D2103, Myhna Maple Apartments, Varthur Main Road, Varthur, Bengaluru 560087 have changed the name of my minor daughter from **DUGGIREDDY VARSHIKA REDDY** to **VARSHIKA REDDY** vide Affidavit Dated: 13/06/2026, sworn before Notary GANGARAJU B.N, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Nethravathi S. B.** D/o. Siddaraju , Aged about 24 years, R/at Siddapura, Kanakapura Taluk, Medamaranahalli Kanakapura, Rama nagar District, Karnataka - 562 112, now at Bangalore. I state that in my SSLC Marks Card & some other documents my name was mentioned as **Nethravathi S. B** but in Aadhar Card, Pan Card, Election ID my name was mentioned as **Nethra.** My correct name is **Nethravathi S. B.** Both names **Nethravathi S. B** & **Nethra** pertains to me only. I declare that hereinafter my name will be **NETHRAVATHI S. B.,**Vide affidavit dated 10.06.2026 sworn before Notary Uma Maheswary M. N., Bengaluru.

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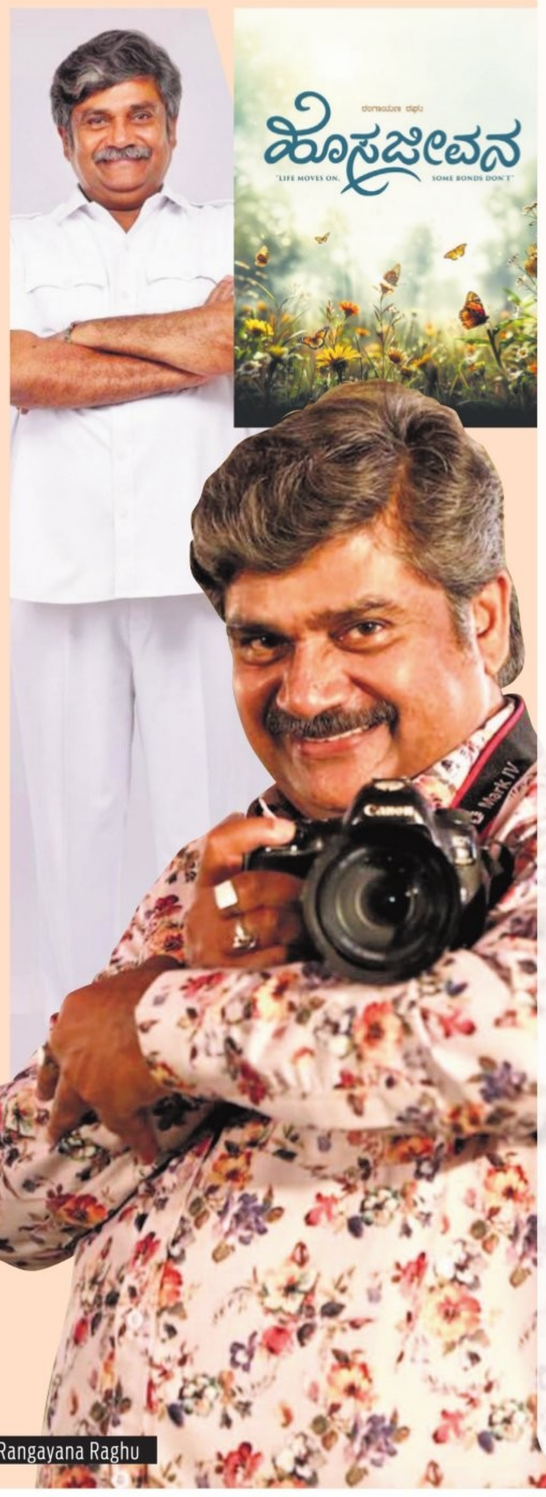
HOSA JEEVANA MARKS RANGAYANA RAGHU'S 400TH FILM

The landmark film's title is unveiled by Dhananjaya, who extends his wishes to the team



Rangayana Raghu

A SHARADHAA

FOR over two decades, Rangayana Raghu has remained one of Kannada cinema's most dependable performers, seamlessly moving between comedy, character roles and emotionally layered performances. The actor, who first made his mark through theatre before becoming a familiar face on the big screen, has now reached a significant milestone in his career. His 400th film has been titled *Hosa Jeevana*. The title of the film was unveiled recently by actor Dhananjaya, who extended his wishes to the team. While the launch marks an important moment for the project, the spotlight remains firmly on Rangayana Raghu and a career that has consistently enriched Kannada cinema.

From memorable performances in films such as *Duniya, Sanju Weds Geetha, Jackie, Parathma* and many others, Rangayana Raghu has built a reputation for bringing authenticity and depth to every role. *Hosa Jeevana* is directed by Mohan Kumar Hanumayya, who has previously directed several short films and is now making the transition to feature filmmaking. Apart from directing, he is also part of the production team. The film is backed by GS Sanjeev Prasad under the banners of Arjun Productions and Chiru Productions.

The cast of *Hosa Jeevana* also includes Prabhu Mundkur, Swathi Muppala, Achyuth Kumar, Shivraj KR Pete, Suhas Atreya, Abhi Samrat and Uday Achar. According to the makers, *Hosa Jeevana* revolves around themes of friendship, love, personal struggles and human values. The film's title, which translates to "New Life", hints at an emotional journey rooted in everyday experiences and relationships. The film has music composed by Sumukh Rao, background score by Sunad Gowtham, editing by Shashidhar Gowda, cinematography by Raj Kanth S and dialogues by Prathap MR.

Anup Revanna plays a Chief Minister's admirer in *Kanakaraj*

CE FEATURES

WE have often seen youth-centric cinema being centred around romance, friendship or rebellion. With the upcoming film, *Kanakaraj*, writer V Nagendra Prasad appears to be taking a different route.

The film, starring Anup Revanna in the lead, is built around a protagonist whose admiration for a Chief Minister becomes an important thread in the narrative. According to Nagendra Prasad, who has written the story, screenplay and dialogues besides composing the music, the film has been conceived with today's generation firmly in mind.

Speaking about the project, Nagendra Prasad revealed that the story is rooted in themes and characters that young audiences can identify with. He added that the hero's devotion to a Chief Minister is not merely a character trait but a significant aspect of the film's journey.

Produced by SR Sanath Kumar under the Sukruthi Chitralaya banner and directed by R Ravindra, *Kanakaraj* marks the third collaboration between the producer and director.

Sanath Kumar described *Kanakaraj* as a different story and said the makers are aiming to bring the film to theatres in July. Anup Revanna plays a lawyer in the film and said his character is a devoted admirer of Chief Minister Ramaiah. Nimisha stars as the female lead, while veteran actors Srinath, Ramakrishna, Padmavasanthi and Yamuna Srinidhi play key roles.

While the song and motion poster have offered audiences an early glimpse into the film, the makers seem keen to draw attention to the story's central idea: a young man, his political idol and the journey that unfolds from that admiration.

RK's *Naaguge Vadhu Bekagiddale* explores Karnataka's wedding scenario

CE FEATURES

MARRIAGE has long been a familiar subject in Kannada cinema, but filmmaker RK is set to approach it from a contemporary perspective in Naaguge Vadhu Bekagiddale. The film is built around an issue that is increasingly becoming part of conversations across Karnataka: the challenges many men face in finding a suitable life partner despite having stable jobs and family support.

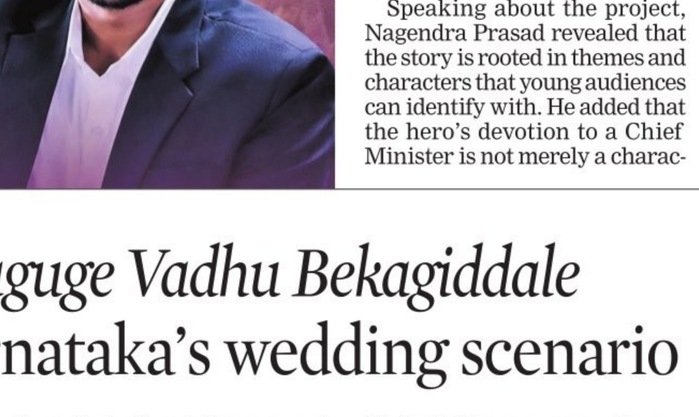
Written, directed and scripted by RK, the film is produced under the Sriguru Raghavendra Kannada Cinemas banner and is inspired by situations the filmmaker says he has witnessed closely.

According to RK, the story examines the changing expectations surrounding marriage. From demands for government jobs and financial stability to expectations regarding family structures and urban property ownership, the film attempts to reflect the pressures and conditions that often influence matrimonial decisions today. While presented through a commercial format, the filmmaker says the story is rooted in real-life incidents and experiences.

The film follows Nagu, played by Dattu Poojari, a young man navigating these challenges as he tries to find a suitable bride. Through his journey, the film also explores family relationships, aspirations and the emotional impact of social expectations.

Naaguge Vadhu Bekagiddale also stars Sonika Somanna, Chitral Rangaswamy, Apoorvashree, Rekha Das and Bow Bow Biryani Jayaram in key roles. Dattu says he was drawn to the project after listening to the story and immediately connected with the character of Nagu.

The film has completed production and is currently in post-production, with the makers aiming for a theatrical release next month. The trailer and songs, unveiled recently, offered a glimpse into the film's blend of humour, emotion and social commentary.


A still from the film

Ikka gets OTT premiere date

CE FEATURES

ON Saturday, Netflix announced the release date for its upcoming original film, *Ikka*, which stars Sunny Deol and Akshaye Khanna in the lead roles. Directed by Siddharth P Malhotra, *Ikka* will begin streaming on July 10. *Ikka* revolves around a successful and just lawyer (Sunny Deol) who is arm-twisted into defending a murder accused (Akshaye Khanna), a man whose career he'd notoriously ended years ago, now pushing him to use every trick in the trade to win the case, because otherwise, he stands to lose everything he holds dear.

Besides directing the film, Siddharth is also the co-producer. *Ikka* also stars Tillotama Shome, Akanksha Ranjan Kapoor, Sanjeeda Sheikh, Jyoti Mukerji, Shishir Sharma, and Dia Mirza in the supporting cast. In the technical team, the film has Jishnu Bhattacharjee as the cinematographer, Shweta Venkat as editor and Julius Packiam has composed the background score.

The Batman 2 starts filming

CE FEATURES

AFTER significant delays, Matt Reeves' *The Batman: Part 2* has finally begun filming in London with Robert Pattinson playing the caped crusader. Written by Reeves and Mattson Tomlin, the film also features Colin Farrell returning as The Penguin, Jeffrey Wright as Commissioner James Gordon and Andy Serkis as Alfred Pennyworth.

The cast also features Gil Perez-Abraham as Officer Martinez, Jayme Lawson as Gotham City Mayor Bella Real, Charles Dance as Harvey Dent's father. Sebastian Stan, Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Koch and Brian Tyree Henry also play key roles. Barry Keoghan is also expected to reprise his role as Joker, who was introduced at the end of the first film. While it was earlier revealed that Sebastian Stan would be playing Harvey Dent, Tyree Henry is said to be taking over the role and Stan might be playing Victor Zsasz, the serial killer. *Batman: Part II* is currently scheduled to release on October 1, 2027.

Esha Deol to headline horror-comedy *Ghunghat*

Esha Deol

Produced by Bengaluru-based Devesh Kumar and directed by Rajiv S Ruia, the film is set for release in Hindi, Kannada and Telugu

CE FEATURES

GHUNGHAT, which blends horror and comedy, is set to mark Esha Deol's first time working in this genre. Directed by Rajiv S Ruia and produced by Devesh Kumar under the Native Cinemas banner, the film is being planned as a multilingual release in Hindi, Kannada and Telugu.

Although Esha has appeared in horror films such as Darling and Kucch To Hai, *Ghunghat* marks her first attempt at a story that blends supernatural elements with comedy. Set in the fictional village of Jangipura, the film centres on Bhuri, a spirit whose tragic past returns to haunt an entire community. The narrative mixes horror, humour, romance and fantasy, while also carrying a social message.

Speaking about the project, Esha said the genre was one of the reasons she agreed to be part of the film. "*Ghunghat* is a completely new genre for me to explore. I have enjoyed doing comedy and have worked in horror before, but this combines both. What attracted me to the script was that it balances entertainment with emotion and a meaningful message," she said.

For director Rajiv, the project continues his interest in stories that blend the supernatural with mainstream entertainment. At a time when horror-comedies have found a growing audience across Indian cinema, *Ghunghat* hopes to carve out its own space with a mix of folklore, mystery and humour, backed by a multilingual release strategy.

Samyuktha Hegde joins *Vikram's Chiyaan 63*

CE FEATURES

AFTER making her mark with *Kirik Party* and building a steady presence in Tamil cinema through films such as *Comali* and *Manmadha Leelai*, Samyuktha Hegde has been cast in Vikram's upcoming film directed by Anand Shankar.

Samyuktha has joined the cast of *Chiyaan 63*, which marks Anand Shankar's reunion with Vikram nearly a decade after Iru Mugan.

Over the years, Samyuktha has steadily expanded her career beyond Karnataka. Tamil cinema became an important part of that journey, with the actor's roles, which were varied in genre and screen time, helping her build familiarity among Tamil audiences and showcase her versatility.

The actor, who has made her mark in Bollywood, is venturing into notable territory with *Chiyaan 63*. Produced by Sathya Jyothi Films, the film is being mounted as a family action entertainer and features an ensemble cast that includes Riya Shibu, Urvashi and MS Bhaskar. The music for the film is composed by Santhosh Narayanan.

While the spotlight on the project is naturally on Vikram and his reunion with Anand Shankar, for Samyuktha, it is another step in a career that has steadily spread across industries, one film at a time.

Jennifer Lawrence to headline *One Month Mark*

CE FEATURES

DAYS after writer-director Sophie Fleur de Bruijin's speculative script for the upcoming rom-com *One Month Mark* was picked by Chernin Entertainment, the banner behind the recent hit Backrooms, it was announced that Jennifer Lawrence will co-produce and star in the film. *One Month Mark* revolves around a woman whose relationships don't last over a month. Lawrence recently wrapped Martin Scorsese's What Happens at Night, in which she starred opposite Leonardo DiCaprio. She also backed *Causeway* (2022), and the documentary *Bread and Roses* in 2023. The actor was last seen in *Die My Love* (2025). In addition to What Happens at Night, she will also be reprising Katniss Everdeen in *Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping*.